

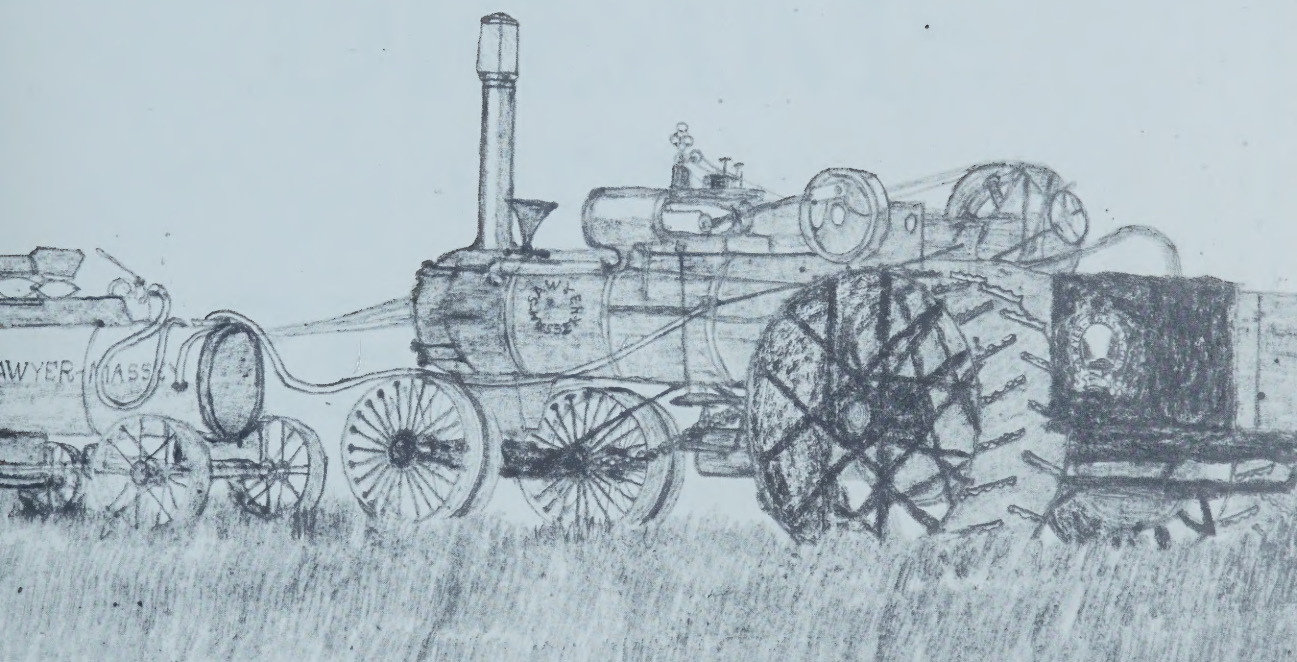


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Threshing with a steam engine in the early 1920's, at Mr. Joseph Tremblay's homestead. Sketched and drawn by Thomas Tremblay.



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¹
DREAMS
BECOME
REALITIES



This monument was donated by the Lafond Golden Hour Club as a part of the Alberta 75th Celebration.

DREAMS BECOME REALITIES



A HISTORY OF
LAFOND AND SURROUNDING AREA

PRINTED BY CO-OP PRESS LTD. 1981

Foreword

We, the Committee of the Lafond and Area History Book, have compiled the development of the districts, and the family histories to the best of our knowledge. We were able to obtain some recorded data, the rest has been supplied to us by the oldtimers that we still have with us. Not being experienced in this type of work, we know it is neither professional, nor skilled. We hope you will overlook our shortcomings, as we really tried to do our very best.

The Lafond Historical Committee

Acknowledgements

We gratefully acknowledge the wonderful cooperation that we have had from the members of the committees, the oldtimers who have given us much of their time to enlighten us on the past and all the families who contributed their family histories with so many lovely pictures.

This project could not have been realized without the financial help of the Provincial Government in the form of the 75th Anniversary Grant, for which we are most grateful.

The Lafond Historical Committee.



A special note of appreciation is offered to Mrs. Therese Theroux who was instrumental in the birth of this book and whose untiring research into our history made many of these stories possible.



NEW HORIZONS COMMITTEE

Left to Right Rear: Alphonse Malo, Evariste Gouin, Laurent Robinson, Michael Dolan. Left to Right Front: Laurette Malo, Candide Malo, Angeline Gouin, Rose Foisy, Thérèse Thérour, Lila Dolan.



TYPISTS

Left to Right Rear: Pierrette Robinson, Diane Foisy, Dellis Foisy. Left to Right Front: Denise Lacombe, Marie Gowing, Gabrielle Foisy, Lucienne Malo. Missing: Josy Schwengler, Ramona Logozar, Suzanne Lacombe, Diane Paziuk, Simone Robinson, Cathy Wilson, Marilyn Côté, Darlene Stasyk, Mary Stasyk (who besides typing worked very hard to help organize the Many Lakes section).



THE BOOK COMMITTEE

From left to right, Back row: Henri Robinson, Richard Malo, Lucienne Malo, Aime Foisy, Ernest Robinson, Russell Paziuk, Ray Labrecque, — Middle row: Diane Foisy, Leona Cote, Gabrielle Foisy, Ray Lacombe, Lila Dolan, Lionel Malo — Sitting: Michael Dolan, Pauline Paziuk, Therese Theroux, Denise Lacombe, Jeannette Theroux, Simone Robinson, Pierrette Robinson.

Dedication

This book is dedicated to our pioneers who first cleared and cultivated their homesteads, and to our present generation who is continuing in their footsteps.

The Lafond Historical Committee



Aerial Photo of Lafond 1938

THEIR DETERMINATION, OUR SUCCESS

*They came from afar,
Bringing their families,
Belongings, hopes, and dreams.*

*They came to a new,
Strange, and unknown land,
Looking forward to a new life,*

*Ploughing the rugged land,
Sowing it with their bare hands.
They built a homestead and new life
For generations to come.*

*The cold and icy winters,
The dry and dusty summers,
The many years without harvest
Could never destroy their dreams.*

*The death of the old,
The birth of the new,
Generation after generation,
Working together as a whole,
Working away from the past,
Toward a bright, new future.*

*We marvel and admire:
Their struggles to survive,
Their many hardships,
Disappointments, and failures,
Which may have discouraged them,
But never conquered them,
Because of their determination to succeed.*

*We respect and recognize
Such a vigorous people
And their love for the land.
We are proud to be descendants
Of such ancestors.*

*Because of their determination,
Dreams, and success;
We now have a chance,
As they did many years ago,
To live, hope, struggle, dream . . .*

*They came from afar,
Bringing their families,
Belongings, hopes, and dreams.*

*They became a new,
Steadfast, and unconquered people,
Who built, for us, a new world.*

Diane Faisy

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HISTORY OF LAFOND



A log cabin on Joseph Tremblay's homestead.

THE SETTLEMENT OF THE LAFOND AREA

as given by Evariste Gouin and
Louis-Paul Laframboise

One of the first persons that our old timers can recall is a Mr. Clark who came to this area approximately in the 1890's. He had a store, which was very convenient for these early settlers who would have had to go for supplies either to St. Paul or Brosseau, approximately 20 miles, quite a trip with a team. He passed away in approximately 1914.



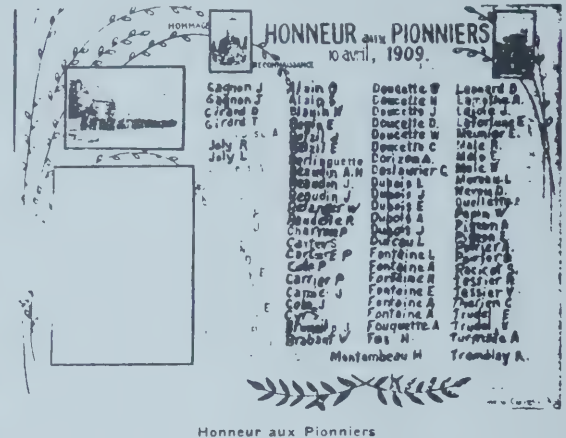
1955-56 winter is remembered for its heavy snow. When the roads were finally cleared in spring, you could not see the houses from the road.

Between 1900 and 1910, we find Ben York, Michel Laframboise; Charles B. Lafond Sr., and his three sons; the Allare brothers, Hermida and Edmond; Odillon Gagne; Etienne Fouquette; Jack Chester; Delphis Vaillancourt Sr.; Paul Farley; Joe Lapointe; Eli Lafreniere; a Mr. Doucet, a squatter as were several of the above mentioned persons; the



Vegreville, Alta., approximately
1914

Dès la veille de l'ouverture de la Réserve, le Bureau des Terres, à Edmonton, était comme pris d'assaut par les futurs colons, qui tous rangés dans la cour, y passèrent la nuit à la belle étoile, ainsi que le démontre la photo.



Des témoins rapportent que certaines personnes, dont des marchands, mises au courant de l'affaire, apportèrent à ces braves couverture, repas, et on ajoute qu'on n'avait même pas oublié le whisky blanc.

Le 10 avril, 1909, 9 heures a.m., la porte du Bureau des Terres s'ouvre. Chacun entre à tour de rôle faire inscrire son homestead. Ce sont les colons pionniers, dont les noms sont inscrits dans le tableau ci-contre. Par un acte de privilège, le R. P. Thérien, pour cette journée, faisait partie du personnel

Aimé Tremblays; the Jeans; Auguste Lavoie; Richmond Malo and Eugène Lafortune; and further west were the Alphonse Foisys and three other Foisy families.

In April, 1909, some four to five hundred parcels of land became available. At the Land Title Office in Edmonton, several hundred homestead-seekers lined up for as long as 40 hours, to file for their quarter section.

In the next decade, 1910-20, saw many more homesteaders coming in such as: Kirk Bride, the

Marcottes; the Couillards; the Joyals; Joe Journault; the Vandals; Napoleon and Philias Jean; Thomas Desaulniers and his sons Adrien, René and Lucien; Eugene Lamoureux; Urbain Lafond and sons; and probably many more whom our older folks may have forgotten.

To us, in 1980-81, we find it hard to believe that the usual way to get to Lafond and area in the 1900-1920 period was by train to Vegreville, then by wagon or stagecoach, over some 50 miles of trails which took at least 3 to 4 days depending on the weather, the time one had to wait to cross the ferry and whatever other delays one might have.

BLACKSMITHS

in Lafond and district:

The first blacksmith in the Lafond district was Johnny Brunelle, in 1912. A few years later a Mr. Paul from Germany came here for a short time, perhaps a year or two. Hormidas Lord was here from 1916 to approximately 1927. After him was Bill Popowich in 1933 and he also was here for a couple or so years. He travelled daily from Chesterville area to come to work in Jos Desaulnier's shop. Laurent Robinson opened a shop behind Edmond Robinson's store, in 1938 and he worked there until some time around 1946. Nick and Steve Prysunka took over the business and carried on until 1950. Since then, there has been no blacksmith as such in Lafond area.

Mr. Mike Bodnar, of Foisy, now has a portable welder on his truck and can go directly to the farmer's home to repair machinery or whatever. He thus does some of the work that the blacksmiths of earlier years did for this community.



Laurent Robinson and his sister Louise in front of Laurent's blacksmith shop in Lafond. Taken in early 1940's.

CARTIER SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 3238

by Simone Bergeron

Cartier School District No. 3238 was established on March 25, 1915 at the request of the local residents. It comprised the following lands: Sections 10, 15-22, 26-30, and those portions of sections 11, 14, 23 and 25 lying west of the Therien Lakes in Township 57, Range 10; west of the Fourth Meridian. The



Laurent Robinson, Joseph Journault, and Philippe Robinson with their cordwood sawmill. In background is Edmond Robinson's garage. Photo taken in early 1940's.

Senior Trustee of the time was Mr. Basil Jean of Cartier District.

On August 2, 1915 the sum of eight hundred dollars was borrowed upon the security of the district for the purpose of erecting and equipping a school house. Eugene Lamoureux of the Cartier District was the Treasurer.

The following lands were withdrawn on August 24, 1916: The northwest quarter of Section 27, in Township 57, Range 10, west of the Fourth Meridian.



Cartier School as a Community Hall being moved to make way for Antoine Tremblay's trailer.

October 6, 1931 the sum of twelve hundred dollars was borrowed upon the security of the district for the purpose of erecting a new room and turning the old school house from East to North. At the time Napoleon Bergeron of the Cartier District was Treasurer.

The Cartier School District was included in subdivision No. 3 of the St. Paul School Division No. 45 on September 7, 1939 to be re-subdivided into that same subdivision on December 30, 1954.

Then on October 16, 1950 the sale of the school building of the Cartier School District No. 3238 was



Cartier Community Club Smoker -- 1965 Ernest Tremblay, Robert Lamoureux, Julia Lamoureux, Emma Tremblay, Fernand Couillard, Bernice Jean, Simone Bergeron, Leopold Bergeron and Hector Jean.

approved followed with approval to move the teacherage to Lafond School District No. 3304.

Finally on September 19, 1961 the Cartier School District was incorporated into the County of St. Paul No. 19.



Cartier School group with Celestine Robin — 1934

Here follows a list of teachers who taught in the Cartier School from its inception until its closure:

1917-1918	Joseph Laurin
1918-1919	Bibianne Houle
1919-1926	Simon Mury
1926-1927	Lucien Desjardins
1927-1928	Ernestine Boisjoli
1928-1929	Francois Courtemanche
1928-1929	Mr. Black (sub)
1929-1930	Nora Fortier
1930-1933	Alice Lavoie
1931-1932	J.L. Gibault
1931-1932	E. Conrad Lafleur (sub)
1933-1935	Marie Ange Trudel (Lavoie)
1933-1936	Celestine Robin
1935-1937	Alice Lamoureux
1936-1937	Suzanne Jegard
1937-1938	Simone J. Brosseau
1938-1939	Madeleine McCormick
1938-1939	Rose Lafleur (Landry)
1939	Eva Prenevost (sub)
1939-1940	Rose Lafleur (Landry)
1939-1940	Mrs. W. Sopchyshyn
1939-1941	Anne Dube (Berlinguette)
1940-1941	Yvonne LeRossignol
1941-1942	Simone Brisson
1941-1942	Denise Mireault
1942-1943	Marie Louise Potvin
1942-1943	Anne Dube (Berlinguette)
1943-1947	Anne Hayduk (Lavoie)
1948-1949	Gabrielle Bergeron (Foisy) supervisor



L'Association Canadienne-Française de l'Alberta

décerne ce certificat à

M^{ademoiselle} IDA LAFRANCE

Elève du grade III, Ecole CARTIER de LAFOND

qui a conservé 88 points sur 100, lors du

Concours de Français de l'A.C.F.A.

tenu le 28 mai 1935

P. Brandermin

Président général

Léon Bechmann

Secrétaire général



Cartier School, viewed from the east, with a few students on the porch, in app. 1947 or 1948.



Cartier School Group with Father Tessier (1930)

When the sale of the school building had been approved in 1950, the Cartier Community Club had bought it to use as a center where meetings, picnics, showers, weddings and dances were held. Later it



Class of 1937-38 — Cartier School. Do you recognize yourself?

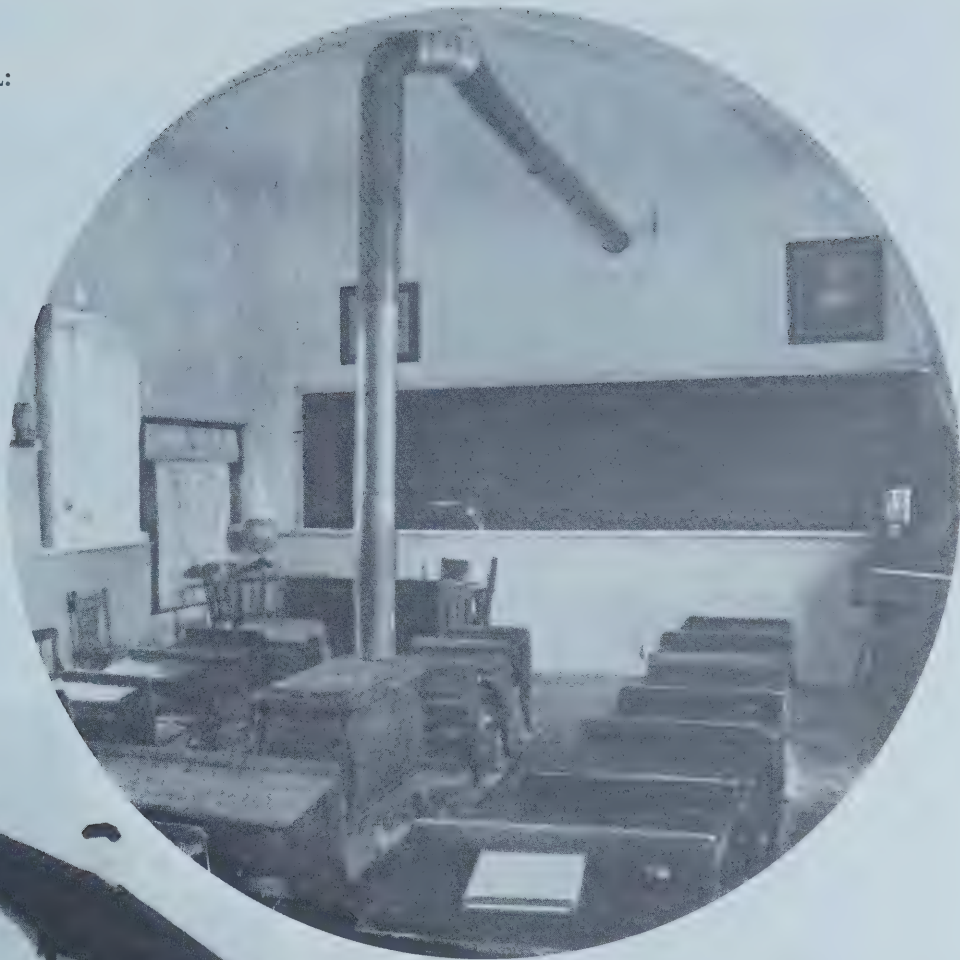
was sold to Antoine Tremblay, son of Napoleon Tremblay, who now has made this site his home. The old school is still in use as a storeroom.



Albert Desaulniers with the "RED DEVIL" on a lonely country road.

CHESTERVILLE SCHOOL:

This picture is very similar to what Chesterville School looked like inside.



Chesterville School app. 1920



Chesterville School children



Chesterville School on fire about 1950



Moving another school to Chesterville.



Chesterville School Students 1943, having a picnic by the lake.



Sunday School Class of Chesterville — School in July 1952
Bottom row: Noreen Basaraba, Marion Hrushka, Noreen Harasyn, Alvin Logoar. 2nd row: Rose Marie Logoar, Madeline Krochmal, Gloria Hrushka, Adeline Basaraba. 3rd row: Walter Krochmal, Norman Harasym, Raymond Basaraba. Top row: Unknown, Isidore Hrushka, Donald Basaraba.

On October 25, 1912 the Chesterville School District No. 2842 was established. At that time the Senior Trustee was Mr. John Chester of Chesterville, Alberta.

On July 7, 1914 the sum of twelve hundred dollars was borrowed upon the security of the district for the purpose of building and equipping the school. The treasurer at the time was Mrs. E.J. Hutchison of Lafond. On July 1, 1915, the School of Chesterville opened its doors and Jenny Hutchison



Chesterville School app. 1950

welcomed her pupils. On September 18, 1915 Mr. Jean Julian Leblanc was appointed Official Trustee. This school was built on SE of 18-56-10-4 across the road from Ray Labrecque. In approximately 1952 the school burned down, shortly after the county moved another building for a school. The teacher then was Eva Sinclair. This school closed in approximately 1956, the following year they went to school in Lafond. On August 3, 1956 the sale of the Chesterville School site was approved and sold to Mr. A. Labrecque.

July 1st, 1915, Chesterville School had opened with about 20 students. Some of the teachers were: (not necessarily in order.)

Jenny Hutchison — Margaret McPherson — Mr. Leblanc — Tim Dolay — Mrs. Steinburg — Mrs. Martel — Simon Mury — Miss Marie Anna Roy — Mr. Elphège Lafleur — Mrs. Dahlstedt — Mrs. Destine — Mr. Dick Pettifor — Mr. Lucien Landry — Miss Rogers — Mrs. Rechonbauh — Mrs. Van Netter — Irene Lawrence — Alice

Melnychuk — Bill Nicholychuk — Mrs. Simbert — Mr. Mike Smith — Eva Sinclair — Mary Petruk — Gladys Demchuk.

Chesterville boys and girls had softball teams, each called Chesterville Team. They went out and played in neighboring schools.

MEMORIES OF AN OLD-TIME COUNTRY SCHOOL TEACHER

by Mrs. Margaret (McPherson) Watt

I, Margaret McPherson, came to Chesterville School to teach during the months of May, June, July and August, in 1923. This was called a Summer School.

There were approximately 16 students made up of: Chesters, Hrushka, Nicholichuks, Ewasiuks, Bill Artiniuk and the Leon Robinson's children.

It was really a new experience for me, coming from the city to live in a sparsely populated area, with neighbors a couple of miles away. I was living alone for the first two months. The door did not lock, so I was not too brave. A younger sister, Mae, came to spend the summer holidays with me. That was much better.

I have fond memories of my short stay at Chesterville School. The students were well behaved and very willing to learn. Their parents were very friendly and welcomed me into their homes. I remember the good times we had when I visited them.

DOUCET SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2932

April 10, 1913, the Doucet School District No. 2932 was established comprising of the following lands: Sections 33-35, and the east half of Section 32, in Township 57, Range 10; Sections 2-4, 9-11, the east halves of Sections 5 and 8, and the south halves of Sections 14-16, and the south-east quarter of Section 17, in Township 58, Range 10; West of the Fourth Meridian.



Doucet School 1930

Senior Trustee at the time was Neree Doucette of St. Paul des Metis. June 25, 1913 the sum of one thousand dollars was borrowed upon the security of the district for the purpose of erecting and furnishing a school house.

Treasurer at the time was T.E. Poitras of St. Paul des Metis. August 24, 1916 the following lands were added: The north-east quarter of Section 27, in Township 57, Range 10, West of the Fourth Meridian. September 9, 1926 the sum of three thousand dollars was borrowed upon the security of the district for the purpose of purchasing and fencing a new school site, and for erecting and furnishing a new school house. Treasurer at the time was J.C. Therien of St. Paul des Metis, Alberta. May 4, 1927 the following lands were added: The west half of Section 32, in Township 57, Range 10; West halves of Sections 5 and 8 and the south-west quarter of Section 17, in Township 58, Range 10; West of the Fourth Meridian.

May 15, 1930 the following lands were added: East half of Section 31, in Township 57, Range 10; Section 7, north half and south-east quarter of Section 6, south half of Section 18, in Township 58, Range 10; northeast quarter of Section 1, in Township 58, Range 11; West of the Fourth Meridian.

September 7, 1939 the Doucet School District No. 2932 was included into Subdivision No. 1 of the St. Paul School Division No. 45. September 8, 1952 approval was given for the sale of site and buildings of the district.

December 30, 1954 the Doucet School District No. 2932 was re-subdivided into Subdivision No. 3 of the St. Paul School Division No. 45. September 19, 1961 the Doucet School District No. 2932 was incorporated into the County of St. Paul No. 19.

LAFOND SCHOOL

Between 1900 and 1910 many families homesteaded in the Lafond area. This influx continued during the 1910-20 decade. These children needed to be educated and so we find that on September 10, 1915 the Lafond School District No. 3304 was established comprising the following lands: Sections 28 - 33 in Township 56, Range 10; Section 25 and 36 in Township 57, Range 11; Section 1 in Township 57, Range 11 and Sections 4 - 9 in Township 57, Range 10; West of the Fourth Meridian.

On April 19, 1916, the sum of twelve hundred dollars was borrowed upon the security of the district for the purpose of erecting and equipping a school house. The Treasurer at the time was Chas. B. Lafond of Lafond, Alberta.

On May 1, 1922, the following lands were added; Section 3, in Township 57, Range 10; West of the Fourth Meridian.

On May 29, 1929, the sum of eighteen hundred dollars was borrowed upon the security of the district for the purpose of building and equipping an additional room to the school house. The Treasurer at the time was Emile Malo, of Lafond, Alberta.

On February 22, 1936, the following lands were added: North-east quarter of Section 21, in Township 56, Range 10; West of the Fourth Meridian.

On September 7, 1939, the Lafond School District No. 3304 was included in Subdivision No. 1 of the St. Paul School Division No. 45.

On December 30, 1954, the Lafond School District No. 3304 was re-subdivided into Subdivision 3 of the St. Paul School Division No. 45.

On September 19, 1961 the Lafond School District No. 3304 was incorporated into the County of St. Paul No. 19.

On August 25, 1966, the moving of the portable school from Heinsburg School District No. 4610 to the Lafond School District No. 3304 was approved.

On May 17, 1967, the moving of the portable from the Lafond School to Mallaig was approved.

In 1916, the first school was built, in 1929 a second class was added to the north of the first one, really an extension of it. In 1949, a third class was built, as a separate unit, about 200 feet east of the two other classes. In March 1950, the two-room school burned. Three classes were then built around the 1949 unit and were ready for September 1950.

As the school population increased a fifth class was opened in the old "Pool Hall" with Mrs. Marie-Ange Lavoie as teacher.

During 1955, two classes, a gymnasium, washrooms and a furnace room were built and ready to use in September of 1956. In 1957, two portables were added. In 1965, it was decided that due to the lack of available High School Teachers, especially in the field of science, the Lafond High School Students would be bussed to the St. Paul Schools. It was then that the portables were taken to Mallaig.

Lafond School is now in the process of becoming a Community School. It has been used by the community in many ways, for a long time, and now will have the official title.

The school facilities have been improved in the last few years, making it a very pleasant and happy place to work and play.

LIST OF TEACHERS IN LAFOND SCHOOL

This is a list of teachers, as accurate as we have been able to compile it. It is a combination of some official records, as many as we were able to obtain, and the recollection of our older settlers of the area.

1916-17	Miss Alice Ouellette
1917-18	Miss Mahe
1918-20	Miss Marianne Chalifoux
1920-21	Miss Leblanc
1921-22	Miss Eva Burk
1922-23	Miss Massicote
1923-24	Miss Yvonne Charron (Mrs. Albert Desaulniers deceased)
1924-25	Miss Marie Jeanne Brault
1925-26	Mr. Severin Leblanc
1926-29	Mr. Francois Courtemanche

(2 classes)

1929-30	L.H. Russell S. Mury
1930-31	Robert S. Lalonde Vianney R. Joly
1931-36	Miss Simone J. Brosseau Miss Doris M. Brosseau
1936-37	Miss Therese Belisle Miss Florence Brosseau
1937-39	Miss Maria Mathieu Miss Florence Brosseau
1939-41	Sr. St. Therese d'Avila Miss Clyna Morin
1941-42	St. Therese d'Avila Sr. Mariam
1942-43	Sr. Ste. Germaine Sr. St. Eugene
1943-49	Sr. Ste. Germaine Sr. St. Wilfrida

(3 classes)

1949-50	Sr. Ste. Germaine Sr. St. Wilfrida Sr. St. Francesca
1950-51	Sr. St. Charles Albert (Princ.) Sr. Wilfrida Mr. Leo Peltier

(4 classes)

1951-53	Sr. St. Charles Albert (Princ.) Sr. St. Catherine Mr. Leo Peltier Mrs. Therese Theroux
1953-54	Sr. St. Charles Albert (Princ.) Mrs. Marie Ange Lavoie Mrs. Therese Theroux Sr. St. Louis
1954-55	Sr. St. Alfred (Princ.) Mrs. Marie Ange Lavoie Mrs. Therese Theroux Sr. St. Louis

(5 classes)

1955-56	Sr. St. Alfred (Princ.) Miss Claire Parent Sr. St. Georges Mrs. Therese Theroux Mrs. Marie Ange Lavoie
---------	--

(6 classes)

1956-57 Sr. St. Alfred (Princ.)
Miss Claire Parent
Sr. St. Aime
Mrs. Therese Theroux
Miss Gladys Demchuk
Sr. St. Georges

(7 classes)

1957-58	Sr. St. Alfred Sr. St. Aime Miss Gladys Demchuk Mr. Steve Petruk Mrs. Therese Theroux Sr. St. Georges Mrs. Claire Foisy
1958-59	Sr. St. Alfred (Princ.) Sr. M. Suzanne Miss Lorraine Chartrand Miss Madeleine Mageau Sr. Georges-Arthur Mrs. Therese Theroux Mrs. Claire Foisy Mrs. Wilfrid Smith (Supervisor) Miss Gladys Demchuk

1959-60	Sr. Therese des Anges (Princ.) Sr. Mary Suzanne Miss Lorraine Chartrand Sr. M. Robert Mrs. Therese Theroux Miss Madeleine Mageau Mrs. Claire Foisy
1960-61	Sr. Therese des Anges (Princ.) Sr. Mary Arthur (Piche) Mr. Fernand Ouellette, Sr. M. Robert Mrs. Therese Theroux Mr. Henri Robinson Mrs. Alice Mailloux

1961-62	Sr. Therese des Anges (Princ.) Sr. Mary Arthur (Piche) Mr. Fernand Ouellette Sr. St. Louis Mrs. Therese Theroux Mr. Henri Robinson Mrs. Alice Mailloux
1962-63	Sr. Mary Yvette (Lacombe) (Princ.) Sr. Mary Arthur (Piche) Mr. Fernand Ouellette Sr. Georges Arthur Mrs. Therese Theroux Mr. Henri Robinson Mrs. Alice Mailloux

(8 classes)

1963-64 Sr. Mary Yvette (Lacombe) (Princ.)
 Sr. Mary Yvonne (Brien)
 Mr. Fernand Ouellette
 Mrs. Alice Mailloux
 Mrs. Therese Theroux

1964-65	Mr. Henri Robinson Mrs. Helen Johnson Miss Madeleine Cote Sr. Mary Yvette (Lacombe) (Princ.) Mr. Fernand Ouellette Mr. Lucien Landry Mrs. Alice Mailloux Mrs. Therese Theroux Mr. Henri Robinson Mrs. Helen Johnson Mrs. Florence Mailloux
---------	--

Sub Teachers

Mrs. E.P. Ruptash
Miss Marie Ange Malo
Mrs. Flora Coutu
Sr. Mary Yvonne

(9 classes)

1965-66	Sr. Mary Yvette (Lacombe) (Princ.) Mr. Fernand Ouellette Mr. Lucien Landry Mrs. Kitchenmaster Mrs. Alice Mailloux Mrs. Therese Theroux Mr. Henri Robinson Sr. Yvette (Routhier) Mr. Ran-Kee-Soon Mrs. Florence Mailloux
1966-67	Sr. Gertrude Marleau Mr. Fernand Ouellette Mr. Lucien Landry Richard Ballantyne Mrs. Kitchenmaster Mrs. Therese Theroux (Princ.) Mr. Henri Robinson Sr. Yvette (Routhier) Miss Irene Angeles Mrs. Florence Mailloux

(7 classes)

1967-68	Sr. Gertrude Marleau Mr. R.S. Kalia Miss Arsenia Lopez Mrs. Eileen Cramton Mrs. Therese Theroux (Princ.) Mr. Lucien Landry Miss Rita Desaulniers (Supervisor)
1968-69	Sr. Gertrude Marleau Mr. Didar Singh Miss Arsenia Lopez Mrs. Gisele Allard Mrs. Therese Theroux (Princ.) Mr. Lucien Landry Mrs. Ella Mikalsky

(6 classes)

1969-70 Sr. Gertrude Marleau
 Mr. Lucien Landry
 Mrs. Ella Mikalsky
 Mr. Didar Singh (Pannu)

Mrs. Therese Theroux (Princ.)
Miss Arsenia Lopez
Miss Ester Laguerta

(5 classes)

1970-71 Mrs. Therese Theroux (Princ.)
Mrs. Ella Mikalsky
Mrs. Janice Shasko
Miss Arsenia Lopez
Miss Ester Laguerta
Mr. Orest Shasko

1971-72 Miss Ester Laguerta (Mrs. Agra)
Mrs. Lorraine Kwiatkowski
Mr. F.X. Hinz
Mrs. Ella Mikalsky
Mr. Robert Prodaniuk
Mrs. Therese Theroux (Princ.)

1972-73 Mrs. Lorraine Kwiatkowski
Mr. Garry Tymofichuk
Mrs. Therese Theroux (Princ.)
Mrs. Ella Mikalsky
Mr. F.X. Hinz

1973-74 Mrs. Lorraine Kwiatkowski
Mr. Garry Tymofichuk
Mr. Cezar Majica (Tutor)
Mrs. Therese Theroux (Princ.)
Mrs. Ella Mikalsky
Mr. F.X. Hinz
Miss Eve Kopela (Kindergarten)

1974-75 Mrs. Lorraine Kwiatkowski
Mr. Garry Tymofichuk
Mrs. Therese Theroux (Princ.)
Mrs. Therese Jodoin (Until end year)
Mrs. Ella Skawronski
Mr. F.X. Hinz

Mr. Cezar Majica (Tutor)
until Nov. 7/74
Miss Rae Blane (Kindergarten)

(4 classes)

1975-76 Mrs. Lorraine Kwiatkowski
Mr. Garry Tymofichuk
Mrs. Therese Theroux (Princ.)
Mrs. Ella Skawronski
Mr. F.X. Hinz
Kindergarten (Mrs. T. Theroux ½
time, Mrs. Jeannette Theroux ½ time)

(3 classes)

1976-77 Mrs. Lorraine Kwiatkowski
Mr. F.X. Hinz (Princ.)
Mrs. Ella Skawronski

(4 classes)

1977-78 Mrs. Lorraine Kwiatkowski
Mr. F.X. Hinz (Princ.)
Mrs. Ella Skawronski
Kindergarten Mrs. Lapalme
Mrs. Olsen

1978-79 Mrs. Lorraine Kwiatkowski
Mr. F.X. Hinz (Princ.)
Mrs. Ella Skawronski
Miss Marielle Noel (Kindergarten)

1979-80 Mr. F.X. Hinz (Princ.)
Mrs. Lorraine Kwiatkowski
Mrs. Ella Skawronski
Miss Marielle Noel (Kindergarten)

1980-81 Miss Dorothy Timko (Princ.)
Miss Carmen Fontaine
Mr. Bilak
Mrs. Bilak (Kindergarten)



Arrow points to Arthur Drolet, Mathilda's Dad. This picture shows the beginning of the trip from Edmonton to Brosseau, on a raft. The route followed was the North Sask. River in 1904.



*This is to certify that Richard Malo has
satisfactorily completed the Course of Study prescribed for the
grade of the School and is
therefore entitled to this testimonial and admission to the
grade*

*Given at this
day of June 19*

(Miss) [Signature]

Public School certificate of Promotion, Richard Malo.

HIGHLIGHT FROM LAFOND-FEBRUARY 1976

Lafond School has been involved in an E.O.F. Multisensory Food Project since the beginning of February. Tropical fruits, nuts and cheeses have been researched, reported upon, seen, touched, smelled and tasted. The students recorded the acquired knowledge in booklets, charts and on tape. The purpose of this project was to give the children first hand knowledge of the appearance and taste of many unfamiliar fruit, nuts and cheeses. On Shrove Tuesday morning, to make our study of maple syrup more realistic, we had Father Grondin explain how the sap is collected and processed, as he did it in Quebec, a few years ago when he and his dad tapped their 2500 maple trees. To get the taste buds involved, each class made pancakes for the noon lunch, nicely smothered in butter and maple syrup — a real treat. At the afternoon recess, all classes had maple taffy on the snow as is done at the sugar-shacks at sugaring-off parties — a delightful way to learn about maple syrup, taffy and sugar.

During three Friday afternoons in February, several mini-projects were undertaken, in which the students learned many new crafts, not only by having a demonstration but also actually making the article of their choice. Activities included cake decorating, weaving, leatherwork, bead work, string art, braiding, paper models, macrame, fretwork and even some engine repair work. As many

as seven activities went on at each session, so the students had a good range from which to choose. Each student provided himself with the required materials and had time to complete his project that day.

On Friday afternoon, March 5th, as a culmination to Education Week, the students displayed some of their mini-projects, as well as booklets and charts made in connection with the food project. Essays on education were read by a few pupils, followed by a gymnastic display involving all the pupils. Then grades 5 to 8 had a volleyball tournament, followed by a game with the parents. In the meantime grades 1 to 4 put on a program of bilingual songs, accompanied on the accordion by Edmond Cote, a grade 4 student. Then the grades 1 and 2 made "Bannock" for their parents and fellow students. The girls who had taken cake decorating as a project showed how they had profited by this experience, by bringing in beautifully decorated cakes. It was a pity to cut them up for lunch, but everyone enjoyed them.

A special thanks goes out to Mr. Bill Webb, Father Grondin, Mrs. Geny Couillard, Mrs. Pierrette Robinson, Mrs. Leona Cote, Mrs. Gloria Yet-taw, Mrs. Evariste Gouin, and Mrs. O'Reilly for helping in our mini-projects, teaching the students new crafts and supervising the actual making of various articles. We practiced the good 4-H motto: "Learn by Doing."



Miss Marie Anne Chalifoux School Teacher in Lafond in 1918-19.



Simone and Doris Brosseau teachers at Lafond 1931-36.



Sister St. Charles when she taught school in Lafond 1950-1954.



Lafond Teaching Staff 1966-67. Front row — Irene Angeles, Sr. Arthur (Gertrude Marleau) Sr. Jerome, Mrs. Therese Theroux (Principal) Mrs. Eileen Crampton, Sr. Yvette (Ramona Routhier), Lucien Landry. Back row — Henri Robinson, Fernand Ouellette, Mrs. Florence Mailloux.



The 4 teachers of Lafond School in 1954-55. Left to right — Mrs. Marie-Ange Lavoie, Sr. Louis, Sr. Alfred, Mrs. Therese Theroux.

Lafond Staff in 1974-75, Seated — Mrs. Denise Lacombe (Sec) Mrs. Jeannette Theroux (E.C.S. Aide) Mrs. Lorraine Kwiatkowski, Mrs. Ella Mikalsky, Mrs. Therese Theroux (Princ.) Standing — Garry Tymofichuk, F.X. Hinz, Cezar Majia (Tutor)





Lafond School Gr. 6, 1974-75,
Front row — Dolores Bergeron,
Irene Lafrance, Tammy
Schwengler, Debbie Bodnar,
Aline Lafrance, Cecile Lafrance,
Margaret-Jean Logoar, Sheila
Yettaw. Back row — Mrs.
Therese Theroux, Gabriel Cote,
Laurier Malo, Lucie Robinson,
Jacqueline Labreque, Bernard
Foisy, David Lavoie.



Lafond School Gr. 4 & 5,
1976-77. Front row — Monique
Foisy, Leane Foisy, Carmen
Lafreniere, Raoul Malo, Steven
Bonertz, Eric Lafreniere, Pierre
Theroux. 2nd row —
Marie-Anne Foisy, Lawrence
Kwiatkowski, Diane Theroux,
Albert Stewart, Martha
Mikalsky, Edmond Cote, Line
Robinson, Jacqueline Foisy,
Standing Mrs. Ella Skawronski.



Lafond School Gr. 1 & 3,
1977-78, Timmy Malo, Marc
Robinson, Louise Foisy, Chris
Mercer, Rachel Desaulniers,
Romeo Foisy, Yolande Foisy,
Ben Kwiatkowski, Mrs.
Kwiatkowski.



Gr. 8 class in Lafond School
1972-73. Front row — Franny
Mikalsky, Shannon Schwengler,
Yvonne Cote, Ramona
Lacombe, Alice Lafreniere,
Doreen Brerton. 2nd row —
Gerald Robinson, Richard
Lafrance, Joanne Bodnar, Marie
Lakusta, Marie Bodnariuk,
Conrad Journault, Mr. F.X.
Hinz, teacher, Top row —
Pierre Lafrance, Paul Lafreniere,
Joe Tomlinson, Robert
Tomlinson.



Lafond School Gr. 4 - 6,
1973-74, Front row — Suzanne
Lacombe, Darlene Couillard,
Donna Bailey, Lise Robinson,
Suzanne Theroux, Kathy Foisy,
Karen Schwengler. 2nd row —
Laurent Tremblay, Suzanne
Foisy, Viviane Lafreniere, Diane
Foisy, Christine Schneider,
Angele Robinson, Bradley
Muchka. Back row — Omer
Cote, Darrell Logozar, Randy
Bailey, Mrs. Therese Theroux.



Lafond School Gr. 3 & 4,
1974-75, Front row — Monique
Foisy, Diane Theroux, Joanne
Ternovoy, Marie Anne Foisy,
Line Robinson, Leane Foisy,
Carmen Lafreniere, 2nd row —
Luc Gascon, Aline Lafrance,
Darlene Logozar, Martha
Mikalsky, Ronald Jean. 3rd row
— Mrs. E. Skawronski, Clayton
Schneider, Alcide Tremblay,
Edmond Cote.



Lafond Gr. 10, 11, 12, 1963-64.
Front row — Rachelle Bergeron,
Jeannette Paradis, Barbara
Chornahus, Yvette Foisy,
Denise Theroux, Rita
Desaulniers, Eva Slefendurfas,
Yvette Theroux, Annette Jean,
Gloria Yettaw, Jeannette
Journault. 2nd row — Mrs.
Therese Theroux, Olga
Polachuk, Rosaline Brosseau,
Mariline Mailloux,, Joe
Brosseau, Roland Lavallee, Fred
Skawronski, Emil Shmorong,
Reggie Lavallee, Brent Lavallee,
Cecile Brault, Conrad Jean,
Mergie Logozar, Sr. Yvette
(Lacombe). Top row — John
Oberkirsch, Ronald Chornahus,
Louis Robinson, Norman
Mailloux, Edmond Paradis,
Gary Mailloux, Alcide Brault,
Denis Gouin.

Lafond School Gr. 1 & 2,
1971-72. Front row — _____
Lafrance, Diane Malo, Suzanne
Lacombe, Doris Foisy, Joanne
Foisy, Mariline Cote, Karen
Schwengler, Suzanne Foisy, 2nd
row — _____ Logozar, Lise
Robinson, Darlene Couillard,
Denise Foisy, Cathy Foisy,
_____, Suzanne Theroux, 3rd
row — Ronald Journault, _____
Tremblay, Michel Malo, _____,
Leon Plamondon, Bradley
Muchka, Brian Muchka, Robert
Gagne. Miss Laguerta, Teacher.



Lafond School Gr. 5 & 6,
1971-72. Bernard Foisy, Therese
Robinson, Pauline Lafreniere,
Therese Tremblay, Lorraine
Robinson, Therese Lavoie,
Yvonne Lafrance, Liliane Brault,
Marcel Foisy. Back row —
Pierre Tremblay, Raymond
Journault, Pierre Lavoie, Victor
Tremblay, Alphonse Labrecque,
Eugene Robinson, Daniel
Plamondon, Mrs. Lorraine
Kwiatkowski.



Lafond School in 1937



Lafond School in approximately 1953



Aerial view of Lafond School, Taken from N.W. February, 1981.



Lafond School Students: 1930-31, Teacher Robert Lalonde. The following names not necessarily in order. Blandine Vaillancourt, Juliette Journault, Aurore Malo, Gertrude Brault, Annette Desaulniers, Laurette Desaulniers, Gilberte Desaulniers, Sadie Gordy, Lina Gordy, Josephine Devlin, Julianna Journault, Annie Devlin, Rose Robinson, Marguerite Rouillard, Armand Lapointe, Leo Paul Fouquette, Maurice Gagne, Alfred Vaillancourt, Germain Gagne, Maurice Robinson, Alfred Robinson, Anthony Devlin, Richard Malo, Armand Desaulniers, Paul Rouillard, Lionel Gagne, Zoel Robinson, Aime Malo, Joseph Fouquette.



Lafond Pupils about 1945, Front row — Laurette Robinson, Mariette Foisy, Fernande Desaulniers, Jeanne Doyon, Yvonne Robinson. Middle row — Victor Lafreniere, Roland Robinson, Henri Robinson, Clement Cote, Joseph Malo, Marcel Gagne, Marcel Foisy, Jean Pierre Malo. Back row — Noella Doyon, Josephine Journault, Louise Malo, Doris Hansen, Amy Austin, Therese Malo, Cecile Malo, Mabel Hansen, Sister Germaine c.s.c.



Lafond Hockey Players in 1954, Left to right — Pierre Van Brabant, Roger Malo, Eugene Robinson, Henri Bergeron, Hector Malo, Guy Van Brabant, Victor Chrapko, Lionel Jean, Squatted down Albert Robinson.



Members of "La Croisade" from Lafond. Taken in 1959, near the grotto in St. Paul. This group was under the direction of Sr. David de Cluny. Front row — Denis Gouin, Marcel Tremblay, Albert Journault, Remi Mailloux, 2nd row — Jules Jean, Real Robinson, Emile Journault, Antoine Tremblay, Paul Malo, Albert Tomlinson, Lionel Foisy, Leo Pigeau. 3rd row — Georgette Robinson, Juliette Jean, Lucille Robinson, Denise Gagne, Therese Mailloux, Yvonne Tremblay, Denise Theroux, Aline Brault, Viviane Malo, Denise Desaulniers, 4th row — Juliette Jean, Cecile Brault, Yvette Theroux, Bertrand Robinson, Patsy Kruse, Yvette Foisy, Rita Desaulnier, Doris Ayotte, Diane Guindon, Alphonse Tremblay, Annette Jean, Eva Slefendurfas, Aurele Jean, Back row — Robert Robinson, Bernard Malo. Some were unidentifiable.



Group of Lafond boys and girls at a festival in St. Paul Cathedral, singing "Partons la mer est belle" Let's go, the sea is calm, under the guidance Sister Euriella wearing appropriate sailor suits. 1st row — Rachel Bergeron, Mariline Mailloux, _____, Helena Bergeron, Henriette Robinson, Monique Mailloux, Marie Ange Malo, _____ Van Brabant, 2nd row — Irene Pigeau, third and fourth can not be seen.



A group of Lafond Students at a Festival in St. Paul in approx, 1954. Prepared by Sr. Euriella c.s.c. They sang: "Le Sansonnet" the starling in which the small bird is caught and killed by the "epervier" a hawk. Can the ones who sang in this group indentify yourselves?

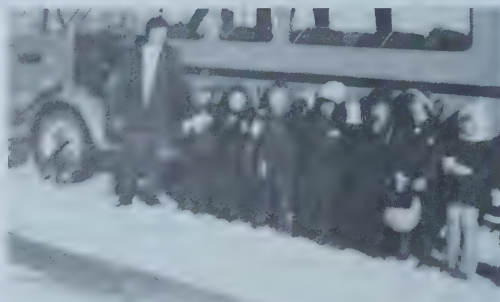


Sr. Alfred (Florence Leduc) — Principal of Lafond School 1954-59.

Lafond Pee Wee Hockey Team 1970-71, Coaches: Raymond Lacombe, Lionel Foisy, Players — not in this order on picture, Arthur Foisy, Jacques Robinson, Norman Journault, Charles Robinson, Daniel Lafrance, Joseph Tomlinson, Wilfred Robinson, Micheal Desaulniers, Guy Lafreniere, Richard (Michel) Lafrance, Glenn Couillard, Eugene Journault, Jean Marie Robinson, Gerald Robinson, Yvon Lacombe.



Kindergarten class going sliding. Left to right — Mrs. Jeannette Theroux, (Bus driver) Timothy Malo, Chad Bonertz, Steven Yettaw, Chris Desaulniers, Marc Robinson, Romeo Foisy, Colleen Foisy.



Lafond School had school Bus patrols for many years. They have been providing a real service to the school and the bus drivers. All took their responsibilities seriously and proudly wore their belts and badges. Here is one group in 1973 left to right — Alphonse Labreque, Glen Couillard, Lorraine Robinson, Yvonne Lafrance, Liliane Brault, Darrell Logozar, Marcel Foisy, Pierre Tremblay.



MY LAFOND PUPILS

1964 - 1968

by Mrs. Florence Mailloux



Mrs. Florence Mailloux — graduate of Camrose Normal School, 1934-35.



Front row, centre — Yvon Lacombe 2 back from Yvon — Guy Lafreniere



Daniel Lafrance



Charles Robinson



Rita Gagné



Colette Lafrance



Denis Lapointe



Carmen Lafrance



Emile Côté



Lucille Jean



Joseph Tomlinson



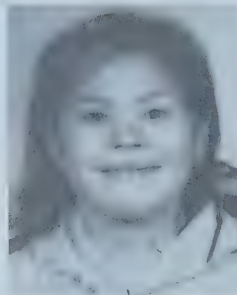
Yvonne Côté



Richard Lafrance



Colette Lavoie



Delma Gauthier



Eugene Robinson



Eugene Journault



Allen Bodnariuk



Paul Lafrenière



Marie Lakusta



Madeleine Desaulniers



Gerald Ayotte



Victor Tremblay



Jean-Marie Robinson



Jacques Robinson



Conrad Journault



Thérèse Gagné



Alice Lafreniere



Glenn Couillard



Ramona Lacombe



Glen Gauthier



Marie Bodnariuk



Gerald Robinson



Francois Jean



Robert Tomlinson



Pierre Lafrance



Jerry Hunwick



Lorraine Roy



Doris Robinson



Pierre Lavoie



Lilianne Brault



Norman Foisy



Pauline Lafreniere



Pierre Tremblay



Therese Lavoie



Larry Rump



Henry Rump



Raymond Journault



Leo Jean

THE CHESTERVILLE PEOPLE

submitted by Therese Chester

Like all communities, Chesterville was made up of hard working people from all parts of the world. Regardless of where they came from, they had many common objectives: file a homestead, improve the land, build a house and have a place they could call home. Most of these homes were built with logs and a sod roof. Every crack between the logs was filled with a plaster made up of dirt, sand and a bit of straw mixed with just enough water to make a thick mud. A good plasterer could do a lovely smooth job on the walls. When dry they would be whitewashed. Actually most of these houses were clean, comfortable and warm.

It was quite a way of life for our early settlers, to live in a dugout while their homes were being put together.



A Group of Chesterville Children

John Chester Sr., with his wife Amy and their three little girls, Susan, Nancy and Mary lived in one of these dugouts. It was while living in this make shift dwelling that Mrs. Chester gave birth to her first Canadian baby: a son named John Jr.

The Chesters were the very first settlers to homestead in Chesterville. This was on May 24th in the year 1906. It didn't take too long before many more homesteaders came in.

Sherstianka and family moved in some five miles away.

Mr. Gagné, a bachelor at the time, moved in a couple of miles south of what later became Lafond.

There were many, many families that moved in. Some made it their lifetime home, others only stayed a short while and left to find their 'pot of gold' elsewhere.

Among the many early settlers were old Gidoo Nicholaichuk, the Steve Nicholaichuk family, Popowichs, Babiuks, Bereskas, Gregoraschuks, the Labreques, Clarks, McCulloughs, Simons, Saunders, Hrushkas, Ewasuiks, Triskas, the Alphonse Robinson and the Leon Robinson families. These are but a few who called Chesterville their home for many years. Mrs. Hutchison was Chesterville's first school teacher.

Jenny Hutchison and John Chester were instrumental in having the school built. The land was



Miss Rogers — School Teacher



Dick and Therese Chester with George Gregoraschuk

donated by the Sanders, lumber was purchased from Charlie Gordon, owner of the lumber yard in Vegreville. On the school board, at the time, were Jenny and Percy Hutchinson and Mr. Chester.

July 1st, 1915, the little country school in Chesterville opened its door to approximately twenty pupils. These are but a few who went to school that first day. Mary, John and Ivy Chester, Bill Popowich, Isidore and Leonie Robinson, four Fortin children and three Taylor girls.

During the years there were many teachers who taught in Chesterville. Some of the names that come to my mind are Jenny Hutchinson, Maggie McPherson, Mr. LeBlanc, Tim Daly, Mrs. Steinberg, Mrs. Martel, Simon Mury, Miss Roy, Mr. LaFleur, Dick Pettifore, Lucien Landry and many more.

Christmas was an exciting time for our early settlers. They always looked forward to a terrific school concert. Both teacher and pupils worked hard for weeks to put this on. These concerts were always successful. The hand sewn costumes were always trimmed with silver tinsel glittered and sparkled. The Nativity scene was always so heart warming. Gifts were given to all the children in the district. Most families were really struggling for a living so these gifts were more than welcome. In a lot of cases these were the only gifts some children had during the festive season.

The community people got together in some big farm home and had real country dancing. Heel and toe polkas, square dancing, waltzing, "wow" what a great time everyone had. Tom Clark did the calling, music was supplied by anyone who could play a fiddle or a mouth organ. There was always a little "moonshine" floating around as well.

In the summer there was always a picnic, usually put on by Mr. Chester. Ball games, foot races, horse racing, all these events helped the community to be a better place to live in.

Passing Of Pioneer Ranfurly Teacher Recorded

The death occurred at Viking on March 20, 1979 of Mrs. Elizabeth Jane Hutchinson formerly of Ranfurly at the age of 96 years. Mrs. Hutchinson was born in Dublin, Ireland, on September 22, 1882. She attended Marlborough Training College, Dublin, for two years, and taught school at St. Lukes before immigrating to Canada in 1910. On her arrival here she taught school at Brush Hill and then moved to Big Fish Lake where she continued to teach. She was married to Percy Hutchinson on December 29, 1912 where they homesteaded in the Lafond area. She and late Jack Chester were instrumental in setting up the Chester-ville School where she was engaged as the first teacher. Between raising a family she taught school in various district schools when needed and served as secretary for three other schools in the area.

Tragedy struck in the fall of 1918 when fire destroyed their home. One son was lost

and one died a few days later of pneumonia. The family moved to Ranfurly in 1919 where they operated a feed and livery service.

Mrs. Hutchinson was a hard working member of the Presbyterian Church. She sang in the choir and was secretary-treasurer of the guild for 12 years. She was made a life member of the W.A. in 1957 and was also a life member of the Cancer Society.

She was predeceased by her husband Percy in 1962, James in 1968 and Reginald and Gerald in 1918. Mrs. Hutchinson is survived by one daughter and three sons Louisa, Mrs. Raymond Mueller of Upper Fraser, B.C., Joe of Ranfurly, Alta., Jock of Frozen Lake, B.C. and Paddy of Prince George B.C.; also 13 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren and one sister, Mrs. Annie Swan of Dublin.

Berry picking time was always something to look forward to, women and children would all meet at the berry patch. It was like having a picnic.

There was a good neighborly feeling in Chester-ville. Regardless of creed or nationality, the people shared each other's sorrows and joys and were always willing to give each other a helping hand.

Today we benefit from a lifestyle whose roots were planted yesterday by our Chester-ville people, the people who came from all parts of the world. This is how we reaped the rich and varied culture we enjoy today.

We thank those wonderful hard working pioneers for giving us our heritage and for making this vast beautiful Canada of ours what it is. We are proud to be Canadians.

COAL MINING IN LAFOND AREA

by Evelyn Popowich

Coal is not a rare commodity in our area. Both the North and South Banks of the North Saskatchewan River between Myrnam and Duvernay, sport many sites where local people have gathered varying amounts and qualities of coal. If you take the Lac Bellevue road, off the St. Paul, Myrnam Highway, go one mile west and half a mile south, you'll see a ravine. To the east of the ravine there was a public mine, where families could load "self serve coal." I don't doubt there were several sites like this one. I have gathered some information on two local commercially operated coal mines.

Somewhere around 1933-34, Amable Lapierre from St. Paul, took his seven year old son, Armand on a "Coal Hunt". A local farmer insisted there was coal under Section 33, which was government land. Armed with a ten foot drill with a one inch stem, they began collecting core samples. They informed the government and asked for a land lease on which to begin a mine. The government stipulation was that they must hire the services of a "Mining Engineer". Mr. Douglas arrived to the tune of three hundred dollars a month plus food and lodging. It was a sum, ten times that paid to the miners. Miners were paid one dollar a day plus food and lodging.

Mr. Lapierre fashioned coal carts which had steel rims and ran on wooden rails. The carts held approximately 300 lbs. of coal. They fashioned sieve-shovels that would leave slack coal and coal dust behind. They also had home-made coal miner lamps, fashioned after the Davy's Safety lamp. In 1815, Sir Humphrey Davy invented the miners' safety lamp, and as a humanitarian gesture to the mine owners and workers, he refused to submit a patent. The lamp was an upright cylinder, approximately five inches tall and two inches across. It had a metal screw cover with a pin hole in one side of the lid edge. The cylinder had a reflector at the top area and a large ring attached to the cylinder. The ring made it easy to hold the cylinder lamp, or hang it from a peg in the mine shaft wall. The ring could also be slipped into a holding mechanism in the head-harness to mount the lamp on a miner's forehead. The cylinder was half filled with calcium carbide and half water, and the cap screwed on. The water reacted with the carbide producing "acetylene gas." As the gas escaped through the pin hole, a flame would ignite it, and presto — a torch-like lamp. Miners had to keep their chins up, because if they tilted the cylinder, the water inside could cover the pinhole and extinguish the lamp.

The mine shaft was bored into a hillside, that was permeated with water springs so the miners constantly wore rainwear to try to keep dry. Any dripping water was super good tasting, because it was "charcoal filtered."

Armand remembers that the mine used quite a lot of dynamite. At peak operation there were seven miners, some French, some Italian, and some Ukrainian. There were three private trucks hired to haul coal to customers.

Coal was blasted, shovelled into carts and pushed to a gathering station. An open trap-door released coal onto a grading sieve shute. The shute was made of various size screening so that first, the slack fell through, then the larger screen holes allowed stoker coal, then larger, till lump coal rolled off.

Armand remembers Edgar Charest as Bull-cook and supervisor, René Tremblay as one of the truckers and Mr. Douglas as the mining engineer. Coal sold for around \$4.00 a ton. The mine opened with a forty inch seam, but to everyone's dismay, the quality and quantity of the coal steadily diminished till by 1936, they had only an eighteen inch seam of slack coal. It was no longer a "paying proposition" so the mine was closed. This however was not the end of coal in our area.

That same year, 1936, Fred Popowich discovered coal in the North second bank of the river on Section 22, just up from the Beauvallon ferry crossing. Mr. Popowich was digging in a badger hole, hoping to retrieve his trap which a small rodent had dislodged and dragged into the badger hole. He dug far enough to get the trap and discover Coal. Word got around and soon a Mr. Thibodeau from St. Paul, armed with a government lease, began the makings of a coal mine. It would be a horizontal shaft into the hillside. The deeper the shaft, the better quality coal they expected because of the increased pressure from the increasing weight of the overburden.

Fred Popowich, his fifteen year old son, Mike and a friend, Donny Mears, who had formerly operated the Beauvallon ferry, were hired to build the bunk houses, cookhouse, the massive bridging and tressels that would support the mine shutter to be used to gravity-grade the descending coal. Fred and Zenovia boarded the men during construction and provided all the beef, pork, chickens, and garden produce that the mining camp cook would later require.

The mine opened for coal sales in 1937 and ran about three years. They began with a twenty-eight inch seam which steadily increased in size and quality. The seam was blasted and miners used bars and pick axes to dislodge the coal. They shovelled it by hand into coal carts which had steel rims and rode on wooden rails. The coal was dumped onto a variable screen size shute. Trucks parked under the screen size for the quality of coal size that the customer ordered. Everyone had to clear the loading area before they could release the coal down the shute. Flying coal chips were very dangerous. Fred

Popowich says that the thunderous sound of the descending coal is never to be forgotten.

Mr. Thompson left and "Mickey" McLain replaced him for the duration of production. Miners earned one dollar a day plus food and lodging. During the winter, coal trucks used the river as a shorter flatter road to Duvernay or Myrnam, where farmers waited with their various truck sizes, carts, etc. When the mine closed in 1940 the seam had increased to thirty-six inches and quality could be compared to black diamond.

One popular theory states that the two world wars caused a labour shortage that raised wages beyond the affordable range for the mine, so it closed. Another popular theory states that the mine had lost its major St. Paul market to newly discovered natural gas and this facilitated the closure. Whatever the reason, Fred Popowich tells us that Pit Boss "Mickey" McLain became ill and had to leave. "Mickey" explained he'd return when his health improved. In the meantime, they were to push all six coal carts, and shovels, and axes, and other mining equipment far into the shaft. They were then to blast two mine openings shut, as a safety precaution for any human or animal that could do itself harm by wondering into the shaft.

For many years to come, local people came and hauled coal home from the slack heaps. They used the better coal in their stoves and the rest was a real treat for their hogs.

This mine closure is sad because the seam was increasing and coal quality was improving, and it was only the circumstances that had become bad.

With the present day "Energy crunch" I certainly hope there is someone out there who will see fit to reopen the mine.

May I express sincere thanks to Armand Lapierre, to Fred Popowich and his son, Mike F. Popowich, and to Ed Krochmal for sharing their memories with us.

LAFOND 4-H CLUBS

A 4-H Club was first organized in Lafond in September, 1954 by Sr. Alfred, Principal of Lafond School, who was the leader with Mrs. Alice Mailoux as assistant-leader. This was a sewing club with "16 Dainty Homemakers" as its name. All this was very new to the group but with such an enthusiastic leader, all went well and the girls worked very hard, some knitting pullover sweaters as a special project, others did less difficult articles.

In 1954, there was also a Swine Club organized, with Hector Jean as leader and Aime Van Brabant as assistant leader. There were 12 members who worked well and raised nice looking, well-rounded animals. In the process, the group learned valuable information on the care and feeding of their little

pigs. This was the only year that a swine club was organized.

In 1955, the sewing club dropped the 16 in their name as there were only 13 members.

These clubs continued until 1966 although there are no records of 1963-66.

After 1966, our students took Home Economics in school and we were told that it wasn't advisable to have Sewing and Foods 4-H Clubs at the same time as Home Economics, so that there were none for a few years.

Then gradually some of our young people began to join 4-H Clubs in the neighboring areas.

Bob Tomlinson was assistant leader of the St. Brides 4-H Beef Calf Club. His 5 sons belonged to the club as follows Albert (1963-65), Morris (1964-1970) won a travelling clock in showmanship in 1965, Charles (1970-72) won a travelling clock in 1971 for Junior showmanship, and in 1972 won the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce Award for a Champion calf. Robert (1971-72) won for daily gain in 1971. Others that joined the St. Brides Club for one or more years were the Lionel Gagnes, Aime Malos and Robert Lafrances. Then some joined the St. Paul 4-H Multiclub. The Robert Lafrance family showed their Limousins to good advantage: Michel (Richard) Lafrance won as Champion at Club Level in 1976. Yvonne won Grand Champion at district level in 1977 and also in 1978. Cecile Lafrance won a grooming trophy in 1980. Simone Lafrance won for grooming in 1976. Marilyn Lafrance the youngest of the family won a trophy for grooming, donated by Dale Real Estate and a trophy for Reserve Champion at Club level in 1980, donated by C.C.I.L.

In the Lafrance family there were several 4-H exchanges, not mentioning all the other activities which were so enjoyable and very worthwhile getting involved in. In 1975 an exchange to Minnesota was under way. The Minnesotants came in 1975. The Canadians returned their visit in 1976. Colette was the lucky one chosen through the St. Paul District to host. The billet Mary Mannee found

the exchange very worthwhile and the one thing she was very impressed with was the floral emblem of Alberta. Colette as the billet in Minnesota really enjoyed herself.

We the Lafrance family had the opportunity and the pleasure to host a Japanese boy during the summer of 1978, for one month. The billet, Takashi Shimizu, was overwhelmed with the open spaces in Canada. The very sport-minded boy enjoyed his trip, and he told us that he'll be back to visit all the Lafrance family again in 1982. The time he spent here on his exchange will never be forgotten.

Another exchange was under way in 1978 to Minnesota again. Aline and Yvonne were the lucky ones to go. They said they'll never forget all the friendly people in Minnesota. Their hostesses in Minnesota came to Alberta the following summer for ten days. They were Rhonda Perry and Donna Fisher. When we got to know them, we really found out what friendly people they were.

The following summer an exchange to Quebec was in the process. Cecile was the lucky one to be chosen. As the billet, she enjoyed every moment of the trip as an interpreter. The host, Clemence Boulet, returned with the Albertans for ten days with the Lafrance family and we had a real good time together. These 4-H exchanges were a real educational experience, from which we all benefited immensely.

Lorraine (1976-78), Lucie (1976,77,79), Lise (1976-80) and Line (1977-80) Robinson were active in 4-H for several years. Lorraine Robinson won a lovely little Blonde Aquatain in a Calf Scramble at the Edmonton Coliseum. Lise Robinson went to Quesnel, B.C. in 1979, on a 4-H Exchange and really enjoyed her trip. In 1980, she hosted a return 4-H Exchange member and enjoyed entertaining her guest. Lionel and Fernand Lavoie gained valuable experience with their 4-H Herefords in 1958. The Andre Malos and Joe Muchka children also joined the St. Paul 4-H Multiclub for a few years and did well in their respective areas.

A summary of the Sewing, Garden and Food Clubs are as follow:

Year	Kind	Name	No. of Members	Leader	Asst. Leader
1954	Sewing	"16 Dainty Homemakers	16	Sr. Alfred	Mrs. Alice Mailloux
1954	Swine	Lafond Swine 4-H Club	12	Hector Jean	Aime Van Brabant
1955	Sewing	Dainty Homemakers	13	Sr. Alfred	Mrs. Therese Theroux
1955	Garden	Dainty Homemakers	10	Sr. Alfred	Mrs. Therese Theroux
1956	Sewing	Dainty Homemakers	18	Sr. Alfred	Mrs. Therese Theroux
1956	Garden	Dainty Homemakers	10	Sr. Alfred	Mrs. Therese Theroux
1957	Sewing	Dainty Homemakers	20	Sr. Alfred	Mrs. Therese Theroux
1957	Garden	Dainty Homemakers	8	Sr. Alfred	Mrs. Therese Theroux
1958	Garden	Dainty Homemakers	8	Sr. Alfred	Mrs. Therese Theroux
1958	Food	Dainty Homemakers	10	Mrs. Therese Theroux	Sr. Suzanne
1959	Garden	Lafond Blooming Blossoms	12	Mrs. Therese Theroux	Sr. Suzanne
1959	Sewing	Happy Sewers	10	Lorraine Chartrand	Sr. Suzanne
1960	Garden	Lafond Blooming Blossoms	12	Mrs. T. Theroux	Lorraine Pigeau
1960	Sewing	Happy Sewers	10	Mrs. A. Mailloux	Sr. Arthur
1961	Food	Merry Mixers	10	Mrs. T. Theroux	Sr. Therese des Anges
1962	Sewing	Happy Sewers	13	Mrs. T. Theroux	Mrs. Alice Mailloux



Lionel and Fernand Lavoie with their 4-H calves and a neighbor's kid on the 4-H calf in 1958. They were all members of the St. Paul 4-H Multi Club.



Members of the first 4-H Sewing Club. 1954-55, with their leader Sr. Alfred and 2 judges from Dept. of Agriculture. L.R. Pierrette, Marie Ange, Helene, a 4-H Judge, Sr. Alfred, Miss Olsen, Juliette, Solange, Marie Claire. Kneeling: Helena, Dolores, Henriette, Therese.



Pierrette Theroux arranging the first 4-H display, 1955. These pictures show the regular projects of the 16 members and the special projects: dolls showing the costumes of various countries, a variety of knitted and crocheted and embroidered articles. There was also a lot of baby clothes sewn by the club members for the Red Cross, displayed on dolls.



Michel(Richard) Lafrance with his Limousin 4-H calf, Champion at Club Level Judge Fernand Belzil. Trophy donated by Zarowny Motors. In foreground little sister, Simone doing her best to follow her brother's footsteps. June, 1976.



Carmen Lafrance, a kiss from her Limousin 4-H calf 1977.



Aline Lafrance with her Grand Champion at District Level. Judge, a well known auctioneer and Cattleman, Dale Lybert. Trophy donated by Imperial Bank of Commerce presented by Mr. Penz 1978.



Yvonne Lafrance with her Champion Limousin 4-H calf at district level. Buyer, St. Paul Co-op. Seen in the picture: Robert Lafrance, Bob Sanboe, Mr. Brown. Yvonne at the halter. Judge Mr. Walter Dietz from Dept. of Agriculture Vermilion 1978.



Cecile Lafrance with her Limousin 4-H Calf holding her Grooming Trophy, donated by Smyl Motors. Notice her calf has learned to pose in front of the camera, 1980.



Simone Lafrance with her Limousin cross 4-H calf. She won for grooming in 1976.



Marilyn Lafrance with her Limousin 4-H calf, receiving a trophy for grooming, donated by Dale Real Estate and a trophy for Reserve champion at Club Level, donated by C.C.I.L. 1980.



Yvonne Lafrance with her Limousin 4-H calf Grand Champion at district level, Judge Walter Dietz, a well known Judge from the Department of Agriculture at Vermilion 1977.



Lorraine Robinson in Polaris Arena in St. Paul, waiting for the judge's decision. 1978.



Lucie Robinson training her Hereford 4-H Calf in 1976. This was her first year in 4-H.



Lise Robinson (centre) with her Hereford 4-H calf, ready to go into the ring, to be judged for showmanship in 1977.



Line Robinson, posing with her Hereford 4-H Calf which had just been judged for grooming in 1979.



Russel Connor with 4-H calf.



St. Paul 4-H Multi Club Members were pulling a giant Cake, honoring Alberta's 75th Anniversary at Rodeo Parade in August, 1980, in St. Paul. 2nd row L.R. Lise, Lucie, Line Robinson. 3rd row second from left Diane Malo.



Two 4-H Exchange members and chaperone. L.R. Tammy Angell was hosted by Lise Robinson's family at Lafond, Alberta in 1980. Lise Robinson, Mrs. Magnowski.

LAFOND GOLDEN HOUR CLUB

In February of 1973 Ray Lacombe and Henri Robinson felt that Lafond needed an organized and registered recreational club. There was at that time a certain amount of friction between the ladies and the children wanting to use the school facilities at the same time. The ladies of the community felt the urge to exercise after Christmas and the children just wanted to play volleyball, so Ray and Henry stepped in and organized the Lafond Golden Hour Club designed to bring the whole family in and have fun playing various games, like Volleyball, for a few hours a week. It was such a sound idea that the club has been growing and achieving greater heights ever since.

On February 23, 1973 the organization meeting took place. At this meeting were elected the President, Ray Lacombe, Vice-President Jules Journault, Secretary-Treasurer Genevieve Couillard, Honorary directors Rudolphe Cote and Mrs. Therese Theroux, Teens Rep. Tommy Lavoie and Ramona Lacombe. The constitution read as follows:

- 1) Children must definitely be accompanied by parents.
- 2) Meeting of executive called once a month to review demands and organize future actions.
- 3) Other meetings may be called if the need arises.

The time for the get togethers was set at:
Sundays 2:00– 4:30 pm Thursday 7:30– 10:30 pm

The place was always at the Lafond School Gym.

The games that were decided on were: Volleyball, Ping Pong, Checkers, and Cards.

The Head of clean up was at that time Helen Lavoie but everybody was expected to pitch in to clean up the premises before leaving.

A contest was held with the club members and children attending the Lafond School to choose a name for the club because up to that date there still wasn't an official name. This proved to be very successful because that's exactly where they got the name "Lafond Golden Hour Club". The winner was Josephine Brault. The name was officially accepted at the March 4th meeting.

On November 6, 1973 registration of the club was applied for and signed by: Ray Lacombe, Henri Robinson, Jules Journault, Fernand Couillard, Genevieve Couillard, Jeannette Theroux, Tommy Lavoie and was witnessed by Alphonse Malo.

At the time of registration the objectives of the society or club were:

- a) To provide for the recreation of the members and to promote and afford opportunity for friendly and social activities for the entire family.
- b) To carry on a literary and debating club for the discussion of topics of general interest, and to encourage the practice of public speaking among its members.
- c) To encourage and promote amateur games and exercises.

- d) To procure the delivery of lectures on social, educational, political, economic and other subjects, and to give and arrange for musical and dramatic entertainments.
- e) To establish and maintain a library and reading room.
- f) To provide all necessary equipment and furniture for carrying on its various objectives.
- g) To provide a centre and suitable meeting place for the various activities of the community.

The Lafond Golden Hour Club always managed to keep aware of the needs of the community. They've done such things as contribute to the parish bazaar, organized dine and dances for the community, made little fun get togethers such as summer picnics, and small dances in the gym. They also purchased useful items like tables and chairs, P.A. system, stoves and cupboards to furnish a club room that is leased, from the county in the Lafond School, used for various community gatherings such as funerals and reunions. Other recreational equipment that they purchased were a shuffleboard, ping-pong tables and cards, horse-shoes, and other sports equipment.

At the second annual meeting it was proposed and accepted that the Club buy a square foot in the Telerama and they did it every year since.

One of the most extensive projects ever undertaken by the Lafond Golden Hour Club was the very expensive writing of a Local History Book. It started as a means to spend the 75th Alberta Anniversary Grant available at the time.

February 24, 1980 there was a meeting held for the gathering of basic information in writing a history book. At this meeting there was a representative from the Co-op Press there to explain the basic requirements for the publication of such a book. Topics varied from what to do with pictures — to different press techniques.

Fours days later the very first "Book" meeting came to order with Ray Lacombe as president, Lou Malo as secretary-treasurer, and a small group of people as a book committee members. These members included:

Editors:

Therese Theroux, Lionel Malo

Area heads for Lafond:

Richard Malo, Jeannette Theroux

Henri Robinson

Area heads for Chesterville:

Ray Lacombe, Ray Labrecque

Area heads for Foisy:

Aime Foisy, Ben Marsh

Area heads for Cartier:

Rudolphe Cote, Leona Cote

Area head for St. Brides:

Michael Dolan

Area head for Lac Bellevue:

Russell Paziuk

The book committee then set a time limit for the writing of such a book and it was to be written in one to one and a half years.

The few following meetings were about the organization and the very start of the book. This included such things as a complete, or as near complete, list of people to be covered in this book. This list came out of peoples' heads, out of land title registers and such. Then the basic expectations from the stories submitted, such as: Husband's history, wife's history, marriages, and children's names. It was also discussed how we could duplicate every story for protection against loss and how to log pictures was another important issue.

At the March 27th meeting it was proposed to spend some of the Alberta 75th Anniversary Grant for the erection of a monument to commemorate the pioneers of the area. All committee members were in favor and the monument stands at the corner of the Lafond cross roads.

Many questions were left unanswered because none of the committee members had ever written a book before, so it was proposed that the two editors attend a workshop being presented by the Bonnyville Historical Society. Guest speakers at this workshop were from Alberta Culture, New Horizons, Mrs. Lois Nichols (one of the editors of "Land of Red and White") and Jim Parker from the Provincial Archives. This was a great help to us and we are very grateful to the people who put it on.

The first deadline, set May 28, 1980 was for the end of September, 1980, which was later moved to February 28, 1981.

On July 17, 1980, it was officially decided to accept the Co-op Press as our publishers. On August 13, \$2,000 was given on deposit along with an order for two thousand brochures to be distributed as an advertisement for our book.

In October, we were looking very seriously for a title for our book and some of the title suggestions at that time were: Prairies to Fields and A Surviving Community. It was then decided to look harder for a name for the book by having a contest run for a week before the parish bazaar in the school and at the bazaar also. Out of this contest we came up with over one hundred names for our book and four were chosen, these four were: Their Dreams our Realities — From East to West — Dreams Become Realities — Their Dreams Become Realities.

By December 9, it was reported that about 25 stories were typed and ready to go. This was finally our first proof that we were doing something.

By January 5, 1981 we chose the color of the book. It was to be burgundy with gold lettering. The name was finally chosen, and the homecoming was set for the weekend of August 1, 1981.

On March 2, 1981, the letter of quotations from the Co-op Press, was officially accepted. All members are really working very hard to complete all the

stories and histories, so that the printers can get going on our book.

THE HAPPY HOPPERS CLUB

*by Therese Theroux and
Mildred (Schulmeister) Pederson*

The Happy Hoppers Club was organized in November 1958, with 63 pupils registering for square dance lessons.

Our executive was composed of president Zoel Robinson, vice-president Bernice Jean, Secretary Annette Gagné, with a working committee: Hervé Malo, Thérèse Journault, Germaine Malo and Victor Lafrenière.



Lafond Happy Hopper Square Dance on graduation night, Nov. 28, 1958; Front row: Solange Jean, Aimé Foisy, Cyril Dion of the Therien Twirlers. In the background, peeking around Aimé, is Eugene Plaquin of Therien, Rita Jubinville, Fernand Couillard.

Mr. and Mrs. Alex Schulmeister were the instructors, giving classes every other night, that is 3 classes, one week, 2 the next and 3 in the third week for the 8 lessons given in a 3-week period. The graduation, on November 28, 1958 was a big dance to which the surrounding clubs were invited to partake, clubs from Vilna, Spedden, Ashmont, St. Paul, Therrien, St. Vincent and Elk Point. Many of the members of these clubs continued to come to our dances and several romances were the result. Mrs. Schulmeister joked that not only did she have dance clubs but also a Matrimonial Bureau.

The Happy Hoppers were very active for a long time. They had dances regularly here at Lafond and groups from this club went as far as Lindberg, Clandonald, Lloydminster, Vegreville, to name only a few. They also took part in jamborees in St. Paul and Lloydminster.

Alex and Mildred really enjoyed calling and dancing with our group and we surely enjoyed them also. We really felt very bad when, on August

27, 1962, an untimely death deprived us all, of an inspiring leader and wonderful caller. There was really no one that could begin to replace Alex and slowly the Happy Hoppers Club became inactive.

The Lafond Happy Hoppers Dance Club consisted of the following members, 63 of the 1958 class, and some who had previously taken the



Alex and Millie Schulmeister. In the days they taught and called square dances in St. Paul Area. One of their classes was The Lafond Happy Hoppers.



Lafond Happy Hoppers: Left to right: Jules Journault, Maurice Guindon and Wilfred Desaulniers. In the far background we can recognize Glen Hays of the Ashmont Alamoos, and at the right is Charlotte Plante (now Panes) of the St. Paul Square Busters.

lessons in St. Paul:
Bergeron, Annette
Bergeron, Helena
Bergeron, Henri
Bergeron, Leopold
Bergeron, Marcel
Bergeron, Simone
Brault, Doris
Couillard, Fernand
Couillard, Genevieve
Demchuk, Gladys
Desaulniers, Armand
Desaulniers, Helene
Desaulniers, Juliana
Desaulniers, Raymond
Desaulniers, Rita
Desaulniers, Wilfred
Duteau, Cecile
Duteau, Marie
Foisy, Aime

Foisy, Gabrielle
Foisy, Julien
Foisy, Lionel
Gagne, Albina
Gagne, Annette
Gagne, Argé
Gagne, Lionel
Guindon, Maurice
Guindon, Rose
Jean, Bernice
Jean, Hector
Jean, Henriette
Jean, Lionel
Jean, Raymond
Jean, Solange
Jean, Yvette
Journault, Charlie
Journault, Fernande
Journault, Hélène
Journault, Jules

Journault, Thérèse
Krochmal, Shirley
Labant, John
Lafreniere, Juliette
Lafreniere, Raymond
Lafreniere, Victor
Lafreniere, Yvonne
Logozar, Rosemarie
Malo, Alphonse
Malo, Aimé
Malo, André
Malo, Bernadette
Malo, Candide
Malo, Germaine
Malo, Hervé
Malo, Marie-Ange
Malo, Roger
Malone, Daniel
Pigeau, Irene

Rivey, Diane
Robinson, Henri
Robinson, Joe (little)
Robinson, Joe (big)
Robinson, Laurette
Robinson, Marie
Robinson, Noella
Robinson, Pauline
Robinson, Pierrette
Robinson, Zoel
Smith, Lorraine
Smith, Wilfred
Theroux, Maurice
Theroux, Roger
Theroux, Thérèse
Tomlinson, Cecile
Tomlinson, Robert
Tremblay, Gerard

Le Cercle de Fermieres

*as given by Miss Bertha Jubinville
and M.F.C. President*

This organization was started in the early 40's by Father Mailloux. They had a weaving course in November and December of 1942. It consisted of about 25 to 30 ladies. This course was sponsored by the Searle Grain Company. Miss Helene Boily from Labroquerie, Manitoba was chosen and sent to give a six week course in Lafond. The course was very well attended and all profited by it.

In 1944 Miss Bertha Jubinville gave a sewing course for the young girls in Lafond. This took place in the evening as these were all school girls.

They all took great pride in their work, and at the end of the sewing course, a display was made of all the work accomplished. It was an exciting event. Tea was served and Mr. Talbourdet was the invited guest as he was on the school board at the time.

Miss Josephine Journault was chosen to spend a week at Olds, for best work. It was not an easy task to choose a winner as everyone would have deserved to be a winner, but a choice had to be made.



Lafond ladies who took the weaving course given by Miss Helene Boily in 1942.



Ladies of Lafond who took the sewing course.

This course was so successful that the following year another course was given and this time two were chosen to spend a week at Olds. These were Miss Louisa Malo and Miss Fernande Desaulniers.

This organization quit for a while 'till Father George Tardif arrived in the 1950's. It started again under a new name: Dames de Sainte Anne. There were just a few ladies enrolled into this organization. This organization finally got larger and did many things to help in the parish. Later the name changed to M.F.C. in 1967.



Miss Helene Boily

M.F.C. stands for "Le Mouvement des Femmes Chretiennes". The objectives of our club are both spiritual and material. Under the spiritual aspect, we sponsor a yearly Religious Contest in our school and donate prizes to the most deserving students in each grade.

Our club is actively involved in helping our community and area in many ways. Some of the projects are the annual spring bake sale, the fall bazaar, bean suppers, bingos and card parties. We are also pleased to provide voluntary services to the local community in times of need.



Laurent Foisy and Philip Robinson dressed for a masquerade dance, in the late 30's.

COUNTY OF ST. PAUL



Present County of St. Paul No. 19 Office — Official Opening June 27, 1969.



Back Row: l to r — Oliver Noel,
John Labant, John Zenko.
Front Row: l to r — Bob
Cheshire, Reeve John Drobot,
Rodolphe Côté, and Bob Smith.



Back Row: l to r — Alfred Roy, Bob Cheshire, Bill Lasky, John
Labant, Nick Chamchuk.
Front Row: l to r — Albert Chapdelaine, Paul Stepa, John Drobot,
Rodolphe Côté and Bob Smith.



William Ballas, Albert Chapdelaine, Dwayne Lindberg, Alfred Roy,
Robert Bouchard, Rodolphe Côté, John Drobot, John Zenko and
Bob Smith.

- June 10th 1913
- Local Imp. District No. 544
- Irish meeting held to (Believe) Pottery
Brown open at two o'clock.
Present H. H. (P. A. Cantu) Smith
L. J. Langue, J. M. Diamond & Co.
1. H. H. Langue seconded by
L. J. Langue. P. A. Cantu, C.
appointed chairman of the Local
Imp. District No. 544
2. H. H. Langue seconded by
P. A. Cantu that Emily Hals be
engaged as L. J. Treasurer of the
Local Imp. District No. 544 having
no union and for fifteen hundred
dollars (\$1500.00). The salary will be
paid at the next meeting. Carried
3. H. H. Langue seconded
by P. A. Cantu that a meeting be
held on the 14th of June 1913
at 2 o'clock P. M. at H. H. Langue's house
and that H. H. Langue be
Chairman

June 14th 1913

- Meeting open at 3 o'clock.
Held at Richmond Hals house. Good
Present H. H. Langue, H. C. Smith
P. A. Cantu, J. M. Diamond
1. H. H. Langue seconded
by P. A. Cantu that the wages
for the Secretary Treasurer be
two hundred dollars (\$200.00) for the
rest of the year in condition he will
furnished the bonds for fifteen hundred
dollars (\$1500.00). Carried
2. H. H. Langue seconded by
P. A. Cantu that P. A. Cantu
go to Edmonton for the outfit of
the books are all what we need

you are now municipality It is
time and his expenses be paid

- 4 -

Moved by A. H. Gale. Seconded by
J. L. Fabrique to get the right
to put a toll on the companies
and on the gauphers and to get
the right to tax after the toll
is paid

Meeting adjourned on 10th June
Chairman J. L. Fabrique
P. A. Gault

Emile Gault

June 21st 1913

Meeting was at 4 o'clock
Went to A. H. Gale's house to report
present J. L. Fabrique. He said to the
P. A. Gault A. H. Gale

- 1 -

Moved for the chairman

Division No. 1 P. A. Gault

" " 2 J. L. Fabrique

" " 3 A. J. Laramie

" " 4 J. L. Fabrique

on the survey of 10th June

- 2 -

Moved by J. L. Fabrique seconded by
A. H. Gale to let the money for the
gauphers be divided in five equal
divisions of \$10.00 in each division
4 equal

- 3 -

Moved by J. L. Fabrique seconded by
A. H. Gale to let the rate of the tax
be (7c) seven cents an acre and we
allowed fifty cents an hour for a team
and twenty five cents an hour for a
single man and that the day be not
nine hours a day and we allowed
two dollars and twenty cents to put

BY-LAW NO. 34 OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF CHAMPLAIN #544.

By-law pursuant to the Agricultural Relief Advance Act.

Under the authority of the Agricultural Relief Advance Act the Council of the Municipal District of Champlain #544 enacts as follows:

1. This Municipal District may for the year 1938 advance seed grain, seed grain or fodder, as the case may be, on credit to farmers residing on patented lands within the Municipal District, who owing to bad crops or other adverse conditions, are unable to procure the same, and the Council may, to enable it to make such advances, borrow upon the promissory note or notes of the Municipal District \$3000.00 three thousand dollars, for the purchase of a supply thereof for distribution.
2. The purchase price for all commodities advanced hereunder shall be secured by promissory notes payable on demand, and by registered liens in favour of the Municipal District, upon all crops grown upon the lands named in the application for the season after the date thereof and by a charge upon the said lands.

Read a first time this 23d. day of February A.D. 1938

L. D. Durance.
Secretary-Treasurer.

H. Chapman
Clerk

The above by-law was read and passed a second time this 23d. day of Feb. 1938

L. D. Durance
Secretary-Treasurer.

H. Chapman
Clerk

The above By-Law was read and passed a third time this 4th. day of March A.D. 1938.

L. D. Durance
Secretary-Treasurer

H. Chapman
Clerk

Approved

Minister of Municipal Affairs.

ST. BRIDGES ←

ST. PAUL →

Sec. Hwy 646

1909 Map

Map showing property lots and owner names along Highway 646, including locations like Lake, Lake, and Lake. The map is oriented with St. Paul to the right and St. Bridges to the left. A large, irregular black outline highlights a specific area in the center-right of the map.

Note — 1909 Map
Township-57-10-W-4
Part-58-10-W-4

North East of every Section Reserved for Métis

AUDITOR'S

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

AND

ANNUAL RETURNS

OF THE

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF
CHAMPLAIN No. 544

For the Year 1924

I HEREBY CERTIFY TO THE CORRECTNESS OF THIS STATEMENT
DATED AT LAFOND THIS 26th DAY OF JANUARY, 1925

Signed W. J. CHESTER, Auditor
SEVERIN LEBLANC, Sec.-Treas.

NOTICE

Take notice that a meeting of electors of the municipal District of Champlain No. 544, will be held at the Lafond School House, at one o'clock in the afternoon, on Saturday, the Twenty first day of February, 1925, for the discussion of the affairs of the district and the nomination of candidates for the office of Councillors, and that such nominations will be there and then received between the hours of three and four o'clock in the afternoon.

Severin LEBLANC,
Secretary-Treasurer.

MUNICIPAL SEED GRAIN AND

	Advanced to Farmers on Current Loans	Uncollected December 31, 1941	Interest Added in 1942	Total Advances with Interest	Repaid by Farmers in 1942	Cancelled	Authority for Cancellations	Due to M.D. by Farmers Dec. 31, 1942
Seed Grain		193.10		193.10				193.10
Feed								
TOTAL		193.10		193.10				193.10

PAYMENTS TO COUNCILLORS FOR MEETINGS

Division	Name of Councillor	No. of Meets	Days	Rate	Miles	Rate	Amount Due for 1942	Overpaid Balance Due from 1941	Total Due	Paid in 1942	Balance Due Dec. 31, 1942
1	Holthe, Oscar	10	28	\$5	480	10	188.00			188.00	
2	Makowecki, J.	10	29		332		178.20			178.20	
3	Dupre, H.	10	29		88		153.80			153.80	
4	Foisy, E.	10	29		484		193.40			193.40	
5	Belzil, E.	10	29		176		162.60			162.60	
6											
7											
	Former Councillors						231.50	2.00		229.50	
Reeve Sec. 61 (34)	Dupre, H. 1941-1942						45.00			45.00	
TOTAL							1152.50	2.00		1150.50	

PAYMENTS TO COUNCILLORS FOR SUPERVISION—Sec. 61 (4), M.D. Act

Division	Name of Councillor	Days	Rate	Miles	Rate	Amount Due for 1942	Balance Due from 1941	Total Due	Paid in 1942	Overpaid Balance Due from 1941 Dec. 31, 1942
1	Holthe, Oscar	9 1/2	\$4	438	10	81.80			81.80	
2	Makowecki, J.	15		1061		166.10			167.10	1.00
3	Dupre, H.	15		800		140.00			140.00	
4	Foisy, E.	15		593		119.30			119.30	
5	Belzil, E.	10 1/2		426		83.60			83.60	
6										
7										
TOTAL		64 1/2		3318		590.80			591.80	1.00

ANY OTHER PAYMENTS TO COUNCILLORS WHATSOEVER NOT SHOWN ABOVE
Sec. 61 (8), M.D. Act

Div.	Name of Councillor	Days	Rate	Miles	Rate	Amt. Due for 1942	Bal. Due from 1941	Total Due	Paid in 1942	Bal. Due Dec. 31, 1942	Reason for Payment
1	Holthe, Oscar					35.10			35.10		Committees
2	Makowecki, J.					2.00			2.00		
3	Dupre, H.					56.00			56.00		
4											
5											
6											
7											
TOTAL						93.10			93.10		

Jos. J. J. J. J.

FORM 402-1

M.D. No. 544

M.D. No. 544

AUDITOR'S FINANCIAL STATEMENT

For the Year Ending December 31st
1936

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF

CHAMPLAIN No. 544
PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

AUDITOR Patricuin & Johnstone ADDRESS 431 Tesler Bldg. Edmonton
REEVE E. Foley ADDRESS Foley, Alberta TELEPHONE.....
SECRETARY-TREASURER J. A. Durand ADDRESS Lafond, Alberta
AMOUNT OF BOND \$5,000.00 NUMBER OF BOND 3/1151
COMPANY Fidelity Insurance Company of Canada
DATE SURETYSHIP BEGAN Oct. 1/36 BOND RENEWED TO Oct. 1/37
HAS BOND BEEN CHANGED DURING 1936? IF SO, GIVE FULL DETAILS:.....
Yes. New Bond on new Secretary.
NAME OF BANK Canadian Bank of Commerce AT St. Paul, Alta.
Is Council Elected by Divisions?.....Yes.....or at large?.....
Number of Verification Tax Notices Mailed by Auditor under Sec. 85(6).....82

FORM D, SECTION 85, THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT ACT

Take notice that a meeting of the Electors of the Municipal District of Champlain
No. 544, will be held at one o'clock in the afternoon on Saturday
the 20th day of February, 1937, at Lafond, Alberta
for the discussion of municipal affairs, and that at the same place and on the same
day, the Returning Officer will receive nominations of candidates for the office of
Councillor from three o'clock p.m. to four o'clock p.m.

J. A. DURAND
Secretary-Treasurer.

Secretary-Treasurer will please read Page 16 and advise auditor immediately.

DO NOT FOLD THIS STATEMENT WHEN MAILING



PHOTO BY VAITKUNAS

Last Council Meeting For M.D. 86

Before Christmas the Council of the Municipal District of St. Paul met for the last time as such to wind up the last administration details before going into a new County System in January, 1962. Chairman R. D. Sloane sitting at the head of the table, presided. On his right, Mike Grekul, Secretary-Treasurer, Les Scrivner, Armand Lamothe and Louis Kapjack; to the left of the chairman, Steve Demchuk, Art Poirier, Carl Zarowny, W. J. Anderson and Euclid Belzil, assistant Secretary-Treasurer.

M.D. OF CHAMPLAIN No. 544

Councillors

Sifroi Labreque	1913-14
Richmond Malo	1913-15
P.A. Coutu	1913-18
	1921-25
W.C. Smith	1913-15
S. Rockinger	1914-23
E.A. Saunders	1915-18
W. Clark	1915-18
D. Charron	1918-21
P. Jacura	1919-20
C.B. Lafond	1919-22
L. Girard	1919-20
A.T. Brosseau	1920-21
Edmond Robinson	1921- ?
Hector Therrien	1923- ?

Secretaries

Emile Malo 1913-18

A.E. Saunders 1919-23

Councillors

Joe Belzil	1924- ?
A. Yettaw	1925- ?
Missing Years	1926-35
H. Taschuk	19 ?-37
Eugene Foisy	1931-41
D.A. Gamache	19 ?-38
S. Tetrault	19 ?-38
B. Tomlinson	1937-38
Geo. Moxham	1937-38
Nap. Bergeron	1925- ?
W.S. Parkinson	1938-41
Ernest Belzil	1938-41
Rene Desaulniers	1938-41

Secretaries

S. Leblanc	1924- ?
No records from	1926-35
P. Rouillard	19 ?-36
Joe Durand	1937-38
Léo Maurice	1938-41

End of M.D. of Champlain No. 544

M.D. OF ST. PAUL No. 542

H. Dupré	1942-45
O. Holthe	1942-47
Joe Mackowecki	1942-48
Eugene Foisy	1942-48
Ernest Belzil	1942-48
T.H. Groleau	1942-56
R.J. Hawke	1942-56
Armand Lamothe	1946-50
	1956-61
John L. Chrapko	1948-56
Paul Buck	1949-54
S.A. Gadowski	1949-52

T.L. Theroux	1942
H.R. Rice	1942- ?
M.T. Grekul	19 ?-64

LATER No. 86

R.D. Sloane	1949-61
Henry Guilbault	1950-57
Paul Lesyk	1950-57
Henry Lorensen	1954-59
Steve Demchuk	1952-61
Carl Zarowny	1957-61
Arthur Poirier	1956-57
Leslie Sloan	1956-61
W.J. Anderson	1957-61
Louis Kapjack	1959-61

End of M.D. of St. Paul No. 86

COUNTY OF ST. PAUL No. 19

Councillors

W.J. Anderson	1962-64
Louis Kapjack	1962-64
Carl Zarowny	1962-66
John Drobet	1962-81
Charles Lafrance	1962
R.D. Loan	1962-64
R. Cheshire	1962-70

Dr. F.G. Miller	1962
(Elk Point School Rep.)	
Rodolphe Coté	1962-81
Paul Stepa	1963-80
(Elk Point School Rep.)	

Bob Smith	1965-81
A. Chalpdelaïne	1965-75

	1980-81
John Labant	1965-77
William Lesyk	1967-75
Bill Tkachyk	1970-75
John Zenko	1975-81
Oliver Noel	1975-80
Robert Bouchard	1978-81
William Ballas	1981
(Elk Point School Rep.)	

Secretaries

M.T. Grekul	19 ?-64
Alfred Roy	1965-81

members of the group, playing whatever instrument they had, the common ones being the violin, accordian and mouth organ, with occasionally a guitar or mandolin. The musicians took turns playing, so no one became too tired, and of course, there was no charge.

In the late 30's and 40's, in this area, Father Paul Mailloux introduced silent movies, given regularly on a weekly basis, usually Sunday night. These were really good, for the script had to be read. This was a real incentive for children, especially, to learn to read, to follow the story better. This program continued for many years.

For a change, live drama was presented, approximately once a year. Father Mailloux encouraged the actors and helped them in their rehearsals, with the result that many beautiful plays were presented through the years. These were greatly appreciated by the audience and the players had a good time during the preparation.

In the summer of 1954, a youth group was organized. Its objectives were to profitably occupy the young people and develop their talents. One of their projects was the preparation of a concert, composed of a main play, a few songs, some dramatized, some not, and a pantomime or so to round out their program. The first year "Un Ange en Overall" was presented by Jeanne d'Arc Jean, Henri Robinson and Gustave Coté. This was presented first in Lafond, then in Brosseau and St. Paul. All the members of the group, fifteen or more, were so pleased with the results that the following summer, a longer program was undertaken: two plays, one in French and one in English with songs in both languages, etc. This also proved successful, united the young people, and gave them all valuable experience in appearing on stage. They had only one bad incident. A live cat, reluctantly lent by 11 year-old Roger Theroux, was lost after the performance in St. Paul. The boys chased the back alleys for at least two blocks but could not recover the lost pet. There was a sad boy, when the group returned, minus his cat. The following year, several factors prevented the continuation of this program and so, regretfully, it had to be abandoned. Yearly Christmas Concerts by the school children were the only form of drama in recent years. This is rather unfortunate as there are many persons in the area with a fair amount of talent in the field of drama.

50th ANNIVERSARY OF LAFOND CHURCH MESSAGES

"The material building of a local church is also symbolic of the hidden reality: the spiritual family of God; God's People. The feast day, as we celebrate 50 years of the local church, reminds us of the spiritual family that we are, under the leadership of Christ,

SCHOOL TRUSTEES 1939-61

ST. PAUL SCHOOL DIVISION No. 45 OFFICE OF ST. PAUL, ALBERTA

G. Harris	1939-47
Joseph Viel	1939-45
A.J. Talbourdet	1939-46
J.S. Valentine	1939-45
Knute Rinde	1939-44
G.V. Horton	1945-48
Parfait Martin	1946-52
Reese McGinnis	1946-49
Hector Jean	1947-53
W.E. Gulion	1948-56
William Smith	1949-55
Dr. F.G. Miller	1950-61
W.J. Dechaine	1953-58
Aime Van Brabant	1954-55
Paul Buck	1956-60
Léo Mailloux	1956-61
Mike Shepert	1957-61
Charles Williams	1958-61
Norman Howarth	1961

SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS 1930 TO 1981

Mr. Guibault	P. Lamoureux	S. Grywalski
R. Racette	N. Chamchuck	M. Hoke
R. Marrinier	B. Hunchak	B. Webb

ENTERTAINMENT IN THE 30's, 40's, 50's

We know that our early settlers spent many an enjoyable evening, visiting with neighbors, playing cards, singing and dancing. The young people usually danced in the kitchen, where the floor was fairly smooth but had no linoleum or carpet that could be damaged. The music was supplied by

our King and Saviour. May the years to come be moments of fervent devoutness to the service of our King, Christ Jesus our Lord".

Mgr. Raymond Roy

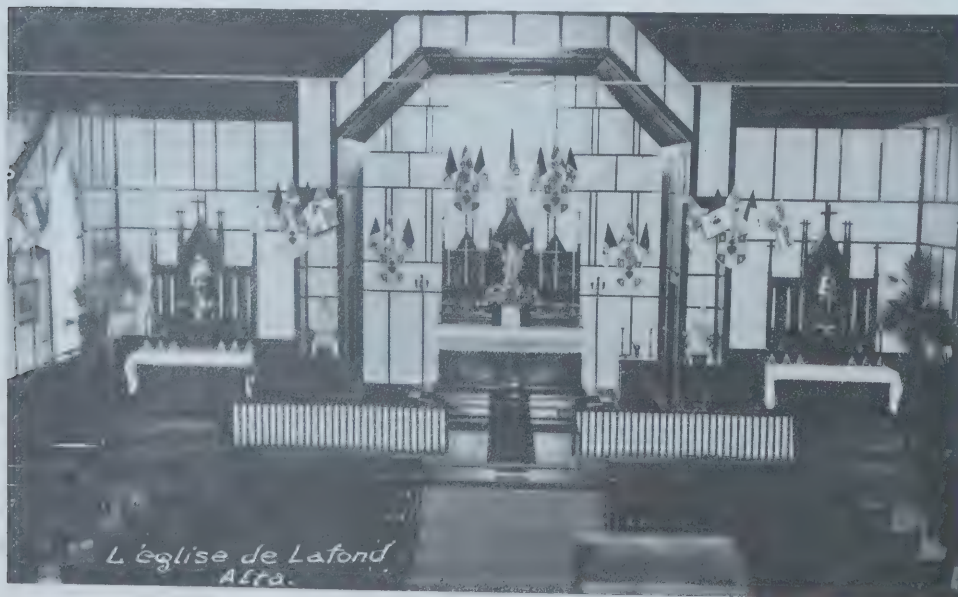


Father Mailloux's altar boys (approx. 1940) — Jean-Pierre Malo, Bernard Vaillancourt, Joseph Fouquette, Jules Bernard Journault, Victor Lafrenière.

The Local Church and the Parish Council:

"Our duty, as members of the Parish Council, is to act as an advisory committee and search, together with the priest, the actual needs of the "People of God" in 1975. Hence, the decisions taken are to help us to answer God's call on we, Christians in the Church today. During our local meetings with the priest we determine our objectives. So far, we have been actively involved in the liturgy and the finances of the parish."

Gerard Tremblay, Pres.
Parish Council, Lafond



The Church and the School of the Parish:

"A parish and its school are united closely by the fact that they have a common objective. They both work for the spiritual development of the youth so that these young people will be able to take their place in society as responsible and dedicated adults. The parish priest helps the school to attain this objective in various ways. We, in Lafond, have been really privileged in having fine resident priests who took time to come to the school for religion classes, to hear confessions regularly and say mass for the students, in the school. In return the school tries to cooperate with the parish, as much as it can in many small ways. Years ago, the children helped to cord the firewood for the church. Now they help in doing various small useful tasks such as picking the dead leaves in the church yard, etc. . . ."

Mrs. T. Theroux, School Principal



First Church in Lafond — 1912.

Lafond Church on its Opening Day, 1925.

I have served the Lord for 50 years in this temple.
Je viens depuis 50 ans dans ce Temple adorer l'Eternel



HOMMAGE AND WELCOME TO

Notre Eveque: Mgr Raymond Roy, - Our Bishop

Tous nos prêtres et religieuses, - All our priest and nuns,

Nos visiteurs: anciens paroissiens,
 Our visitors and former parishioners,
 Et toutes les familles actuelles.
 ...And all the present family.

1925 St. Bernard de Lafond 1975

Cures de la paroisse

Parish Priests

1925- Abbe Emile Tessier

1930- Father L. Bussiere

1930- Abbe L. Mallet

1931- Father St. Arnault

1932- Abbe M. Boucher

1935- Father P. Mailloux

1950- Abbe S. Loranger

1951- Father J. Lerouge

1958- Abbe Georges Wardif

1962- Father L. Tellier

1965- Abbe Hervé Tanguay

1968- Father M. Ricard

1969- Abbe Albert Noël

1970- Father A. Têtu

1972- Abbe R. Grondin

What is the Church?

"Church, as far as I am concerned, is a place where christians of a parish gather to listen to the word of God. It is a place to meet the Lord, a place where together we give thanks to God, the Father of His Son, Jesus. It is in our Lafond Church that for the past fifty years I have practised my religion, my faith, received the sacraments and found with the help of the Holy Spirit, reconciliation, strengthening of my faith, hope, charity and peace which have helped me to live as a child of God."

Mrs. Leopold Bergeron
 President — "Femmes Chretiennes"



Bishop Raymond Roy and the Confirmation Class in Lafond in 1980. Front row: Marie Anne Foisy, Carmen Lafrenière, Léane Foisy. Second row: Line Robinson, Pierre Theroux, Ronald Jean, Raoul Malo, Diane Theroux. Row 3: Edmond Coté, Bishop Roy, Gerald Tremblay, Lawrence Kwiatkowski, May 23, 1978.

Impressions of a Teen-Ager

He (young) makes his way towards the church door

Hoping to find what he searches for
 He looks up to the cross with wonder in his eyes
 But can't imagine his Father's love,
 No matter how hard he tries
 Now he listens to the gospel
 Knowing the Lord will guide him out of trouble
 On the final days, realizes the time is late
 Only to join his father, towards heaven's gate.

Jacques Robinson

Today's Mass celebrates the Kingdom of Christ and at the same time the 50th anniversary of our church. Let us say our gratitude to God and let us always remember that the Church needs our action. It is through us that love of God will be revealed to men. We have to be witnesses to the truth and be men of justice, peace and love.

Rev. R. Grondin
 Parish Priest



Second church in Lafond — 1925.



The Lafond Pioneers, in honor of the 50th Anniversary of their church. Standing from left to right: René Desaulniers, Joseph Desaulniers, Joseph LaFrance, Evariste Gouin, Antelaus Lafrenière, Mrs. Mathilda Blanchette, Mrs. René Desaulniers, Mrs. Frechette, Mrs. Wilfred Foisy, Mrs. Marie Foisy, Mrs. Maria Foisy, Mrs. Mathilda Alain, — Sitting: Mrs. Leon Robinson, Mrs. Delvina Malo, Mrs. Camilla Malo, Mrs. Lucien Desaulniers, Mrs. Oscar Malo.

History of the Present Church in Lafond:

In 1925, the second church had been built by the Roman Catholic parishioners of Lafond.

Throughout the 50 years that followed, several priests have served the parish, in their spiritual capacity and furthermore, all worked to beautify the grounds around this new church. Some planted trees; spruce, Russian poplars, fruit trees and weeping willows, others landscaped the grounds, seeded grass, and made a few flower beds. Others replaced the wooden sidewalks of the 40's with concrete ones. In all, the grounds are now very beautiful and the many visitors to the church and graveyard are pleasantly surprised to see how well cared for everything is, in such a small hamlet.

Now when 1975 rolled around Father R. Grondin brought to the attention of the Parish Council the fact that the church was now 50 years old.

Sunday, November 23, 1975 was chosen as a convenient date for the Golden Jubilee Celebrations which began with a special Thanksgiving Mass at 3:00 p.m. by Bishop Roy of St. Paul who was assisted by Father Grondin, parish priest of Lafond, a former priest, Father Têtu, Father Bogdon from St. Paul, and Father Roy from Saddle Lake. The church was really filled, for many former parishioners had made the effort to be back for the festivities. Bishop Roy pronounced a very fitting homily, in his usual charming bilingual manner. Father R. Simard from Mallaig, gave the choir a lift with his very beautiful voice. For the occasion, the choir sang a Latin Gregorian Mass, as it used to do, for so many years in the past fifty.

A delicious banquet was served by the ladies of the parish, in the Lafond School gymnasium.

It was such a happy reunion of the former parishioners of Lafond, the friends from neighboring parishes who visited and reminisced with the present congregation.

It was a fine occasion for the young people to hear from the pioneers themselves, how their lives had been one of sacrifices and privations, which was the way of life of the earlier days. It was bearable maybe because all were in the same circumstances. Yet, they admit it was also a time when charity reigned. Everyone was ready and eager to share with the one in need.

The festivities ended at a reasonably early hour, so that our older visitors could get back to their homes or relatives.



Altar Boys: Top row: Hervé Malo, René Tremblay — 2nd row: Argé Gagné, Alphonse Malo, 3rd row: Harry Beauregard, Adrien Robinson.

LAFOND PARISH

by Richard Malo & Therese Theroux

The parish of Lafond had its early beginnings in 1908, when it was only a small mission. Father Husson came from Saddle Lake, about once a month and said mass in Ernest Cloutier's house, which is on land later owned by Ovila Jean and now is the home of Roland A. Foisy. Later the priests from Brosseau, first Father Clermont, then Father Leduc came to say mass, until we had our first resident priest.

In 1912, as more settlers arrived, Mr. Etienne Fouquette and Mr. Thomas Desaulniers thought that a larger place of worship was needed and so a chapel was built. Soon this was too small also, and so, from 1912-14 the parishioners were busy, building their first church, and of course no one thought of charging for his work. When this was finished, a rectory was built to welcome the first resident priest, Rev. Josephat Hamlin who came in 1915. This rectory is still in use today, though a lot of renovating and enlarging has been done.

The first parish council consisted of Richmond Malo, Alphonse Foisy, and Elzear Fraser. The first baptism was on Aug. 25, 1915 — Victor, son of Raoul Paradis and Doria Foisy.

As more and more settlers arrived, the parish grew rapidly and soon the old church was not adequate. In the early 20's, under Father Tessier, a new church was planned and fund-raising began through box socials, card parties etc. In 1924-25 the church was built under head carpenter Hector Fraser, with the volunteer labour of the parishioners. Fernand Moisan was in charge of digging the basement and making the foundation. In 1926 the church was officially blessed by Mgr. O'Leary from Edmonton, under the name of St. Bernard of Lafond. It had been quite costly, in spite of all the free labor, so the parish had a debt on its hands.

Father Boucher came in 1931. He and his good friend, Isidore Robinson, planted the spruce trees. Today they are 50 years old and so big and beautiful, lining the north and part of the east boundary of the church property.

Father Paul Mailloux was a young man who had come to Alberta to regain his health. He spent several months in Bonnyville, rebuilding his strength. Our fine climate, a lot of rest and good medical care, greatly improved his condition. In 1935, he was appointed to Lafond Parish. He was most enterprising and a fine diplomat. He embarked on a series of improvements. He had the church wired. Then the old church was carefully demolished and the salvaged lumber was used to finish the church basement, so that it could be used as a parish hall for suppers, concerts, weddings, and also weekly silent movies given by Father Mailloux. The weekly shows in the church basement are well remembered by many, who were

children at that time. Father gave a free pass to the children who came to haul and cord firewood in the church basement. As wood was the only fuel used, it took a lot for the year but the children willingly did it, in order to get a free pass to the movie.

There was enough lumber left to enlarge the rectory by adding, on the south side, a large living room which is very useful, even now, for many meetings of small groups and committees. At that time, the kitchen had been also enlarged and a garage built. All this was done with the cooperation of the parishioners. Some of the beautiful fretwork that Father Mailloux did is still in the church, on the altars and the canopy over the side altar. The beautiful big hand-carved crucifix that he had brought from Quebec, is still in the church. He was a great flower and vegetable gardener and also planted fruit trees, which are still producing fruit.

Father Mailloux also was responsible for the organization of a ladies' club "Le Cercle des Fermieres", who considered the needs of the area, and what could be done about it. The weaving course given by Miss Helene Boily, and sponsored by the Searle Grain Company, was very well attended by ladies throughout the area. Soon most homes had a loom and very beautiful work was done on them, some even winning prizes in 1944-45, in an exhibition of woven goods, held in the province of Quebec. This must have helped to dispel the notion that the west was a wilderness, still in a very primitive stage. "Le Cercle des Fermieres" were responsible for getting two sewing courses given in Lafond, taught by Miss Bertha Jubinville. They also were well attended and were of great benefit to the families whose members had taken advantages of these opportunities.

Father Mailloux believed that a local Credit Union would benefit the members of his parish. He organized a study of Credit Unions, so all would learn about the functioning, uses, etc. of this institution. At the end of the study, enough of these students saw the usefulness of a Credit Union, and proceeded in the organization. On April 9, 1943, a Certificate of Incorporation was signed for the St. Bernard of Lafond Savings and Credit Union. This institution has grown gradually and is still in 1981, doing the business of some 200 members of the area.

Mgr. Sebastien Loranger only stayed a few months in Lafond Parish. He was a very sick man.

Father Robert Lerouge was assigned to Lafond Parish and remained for seven years. He had the grotto of the Virgin Mary built. This is very beautiful especially at night, when the cross above it, is all lit up. His legs bothered him a lot, relics of his war years. That is the reason that he always sat to give his sermons. He was a very learned man, who could speak very well, in church and out of it. Even children found it very interesting to listen to him



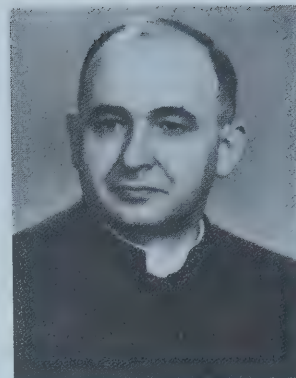
Rev. Paul Mailloux — 1935-1950.



Rev. Emile Tessier — 1920-1930.



Rev. Leonard Derome — 1976-



Rev. Alcide Ricard — 1968-1969.



Rev. Emile Briere a Lafond boy who entered the priesthood.



Rev. Josephat Hamlin — 1915-1920.



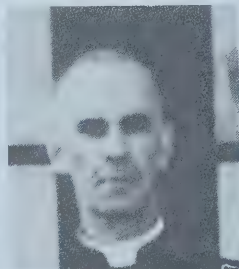
Rev. Joseph Fouquette, a Lafond boy who entered the priesthood.



Rev. Albert Noel — 1969-1970.



Rev. Mallet — 1930 — only a few months. No resident priest till 1931.



Rev. Sebastien Loranger — 1950-1951.



Rev. George Tardif — 1958-1962.



Rev. J.M. Boucher — 1931-1935.



Rev. Lucien Tellier — 1962-1965.



Rev. Antoine Tetu — 1970-1972.



Rev. Rosaire Grondin — 1972-1976.



Rev. Robert Lerouge — 1951-1958.



Rev. Harvey Tanguay — 1965-1968.

talk, at any time. Few people knew that he was also an accomplished musician, having been taught by his sister, Mme LeSaulniers, who passed away in Edmonton in the late 70's.

Father George Tardif, a westerner born not far from here, came to Lafond in 1958. He repaired the wiring and heating systems and had the interior of the church repainted. He died in his sleep, July 6, 1962, a victim of a massive heart seizure. He was the first priest to be buried in Lafond cemetery.

Father Tellier, a young westerner also, fitted right in with the young people of his congregation. He worked hard to improve many conditions in his parish. Some of these were: tiles were installed on the floor of the church and the kneeling benches were padded.

Father Tanguay was very active and visited everyone within the precincts of his parish. Even people of different faiths really appreciated his visits.

Father Ricard came to us with special qualifications, that of a teacher. It surely was handy for the

school principal to get a substitute, as he was always ready to oblige.

Father Ricard took over many of the bishop's duties in St. Paul during his absence. When his duties in St. Paul were over, he was very worn out and so left on a holiday to England. He had a good rest, returned to Canada and Edmonton but was accidentally killed on the way from the airport. He was the second priest to be buried in Lafond cemetery.

Father Noel was in Lafond for a year, followed by Father Tetu, who stayed only 2 years. Father Grondin spent 4 years.

In 1976 Father Leonard Derome took over as parish priest, residing in Lafond, also saying mass in Brosseau on Sundays and in Elk Point on Saturday night. His health was not the best, so now he no longer goes to Elk Point, which decreases his work load. He works hard when his health permits it, as a fine carpenter repairing all kinds of things that need it. He is also a great gardener, grows beautiful flowers and keeps the lawns and grounds meticulously clean and well cared for.

REGISTER OF MARRIAGES REGISTRATION DIVISION OF LAFOND ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Delphis Vaillancourt	Agnes Marion	Sept. 4, 1906	St. Paul	Rev. G. Simonin
Joseph Lapointe	Alma Fouquette	Sept. 7, 1908	St. Paul	Rev. J.A. Therien
Ernest Pigeon	Lucienne Belland	July 28, 1910	St. Paul	Rev. G.E. Tessier
Elzear Foisy	Maria Robinson	Jan. 21, 1913	St. Paul	Rev. J.A. Therien
Raoul Paradis	Doria Foisy	Mar. 31, 1913	St. Paul	Rev. C. Barlenc
Napoleon Tremblay	Marie Fontaine	July 7, 1913	St. Paul	Rev. J.A. Therien
Napoleon Bergeron	Antoinette Tessier	Feb. 2, 1915	St. Paul	Rev. J.M. LeClainche
Antelaus Lafrenière	Laura Dumaine	Oct. 11, 1927	St. Paul	Rev. L. LaRose
Achille Lafrenière	Rachel Gill	Apr. 10, 1928	St. Paul	Rev. L. LaRose
Emile Malo	Camilla Foisy	July 27, 1914	Lafond	Rev. A. Husson
Charlie Bellerose	Bernadette Laboucane	May 2, 1916	Lafond	Rev. L. Balter
Daniel Joyal	Elizabeth Carter	June 6, 1916	Lafond	Rev. J. Hamlin
Donat Noel	Eugenie Laflamme	June 13, 1916	Lafond	Rev. J. Hamlin
Adolphe Brière	Eva Benoit	Oct. 17, 1916	Lafond	Rev. J. Hamlin
Forest Marion	Delphine Chalifoux	Oct. 24, 1916	Lafond	Rev. J. Hamlin
Lucien Desaulniers	Marie Louise Hamlin	Nov. 6, 1916	Lafond	Rev. J. Hamlin
Alphonse Robinson	Marie Louise Dumas	Nov. 20, 1916	Lafond	Rev. J. Hamlin
Alexis Belouin	Marilda Drolet	Apr. 17, 1917	Lafond	Rev. F. Dogrnois
Pierre Coté	Marie Louise Desaulniers	July 24, 1917	Lafond	Rev. J. Hamlin
Alderic Fouquette	Flore Desaulniers	Nov. 6, 1917	Lafond	Rev. J. Hamlin
Oscar Guindon	Alice Bouchard	Aug. 10, 1918	Lafond	Rev. J.B. Lachapelle
Adrien Foisy	Myra Labine	Sept. 9, 1918	Lafond	Rev. J. Hamlin
Albert Paradis	Eva Foisy	May 20, 1919	Lafond	Rev. J. Hamlin
Felix Fortin	Adele Bolduc	June 22, 1919	Lafond	Rev. J. Hamlin
Philip Demers	Bertha Labrie	Nov. 13, 1920	Lafond	Rev. E. Tessier
Romulus Lafond	Jean Donnelly	Apr. 23, 1921	Lafond	Rev. E. Tessier
Octave Robinson	Melina Blanchette	July 19, 1922	Lafond	Rev. E. Tessier
Alphege Trudel	Eva Benoit	Oct. 23, 1922	Lafond	Rev. E. Tessier
Hector Dupuis	Alexandrine Noel	Dec. 26, 1922	Lafond	Rev. E. Tessier
Wilfrid Foisy	Madeleine Paradis	Feb. 6, 1923	Lafond	Rev. E. Tessier

Joseph Desjardins	Eugenie Blanchette	Oct. 27, 1923	Lafond	Rev. E. Tessier
Joseph W. Breland	Marguerite Robinson	Feb. 2, 1925	Lafond	Rev. E. Tessier
Conrad Gill	Antonia Lafrenière	Apr. 13, 1925	Lafond	Rev. E. Tessier
Oscar Malo	Julienne Jean	Oct. 27, 1925	Lafond	Rev. E. Tessier
William Parkinson	Blanche Tremblay	Jan. 20, 1926	Lafond	Rev. E. Tessier
Fred Snaychuk	Eva Shorodyska	July 22, 1926	Lafond	Rev. E. Tessier
Ovila Foisy	Maria Robinson	Aug. 3, 1926	Lafond	Rev. E. Tessier
Henri Charron	Doria Jean	Oct. 25, 1926	Lafond	Rev. E. Tessier
Arthur Foisy	Marie Paradis	Nov. 16, 1926	Lafond	Rev. E. Tessier
John Eskow	Sofia Poloniski	Feb. 19, 1927	Lafond	Rev. E. Tessier
George Taschuk	Annie Tymko	Jan. 28, 1928	Lafond	Rev. E. Tessier
Ronald Doyon	Germaine Poirier	Feb. 20, 1928	Lafond	Rev. E. Tessier
Francis Robinson	Annette Malo	Apr. 9, 1928	Lafond	Rev. E. Tessier
Eugene Foisy	Rose Malo	May 28, 1928	Lafond	Rev. E. Tessier
Philip Ovila Venne	Cecile Mantha	May 28, 1928	Lafond	Rev. N. Chartrand
Florien Theroux	Eva Henley	Aug. 14, 1928	Lafond	Rev. E. Tessier
Anthony Desaulniers	Germaine Bussière	Nov. 27, 1928	Lafond	Rev. E. Tessier
Raymond Roberge	Rita Fraser	Nov. 27, 1928	Lafond	Rev. E. Tessier
Charles Beaupré	Aldina Foisy	June 18, 1929	Lafond	Rev. E. Tessier
Joseph Desaulniers	Anna Goudreau	Oct. 22, 1929	Lafond	Rev. E. Tessier
Edgar Gooler	Alice Gamache	Nov. 4, 1929	Lafond	Rev. E. Tessier
Joseph D. Caron	Leonie Robinson	Dec. 31, 1929	Lafond	Rev. E. Tessier
Alphege Lafrenière	Léonille Lapointe	Nov. 11, 1930	Lafond	Rev. L. Mallet
Louis Gagnon	Solange Guertin	Nov. 25, 1930	Lafond	Rev. L. Mallet
Gilbert Foisy	Yvonne Malo	Nov. 24, 1931	Lafond	Rev. J.M. Boucher
Michel Jallot	Irene Ouellette	Jan. 26, 1932	Lafond	Rev. J.M. Boucher
Joseph Chartrand	Alice Robinson	Feb. 8, 1932	Lafond	Rev. H. Girard
Philip Blanchette	Emilienne Robinson	Nov. 15, 1932	Lafond	Rev. J.M. Boucher
Alcide Foisy	Albina Ouellette	Apr. 26, 1933	Lafond	Rev. J.M. Boucher
Robert Côté	Louise Desaulniers	May 30, 1933	Lafond	Rev. J.M. Boucher
Emile Dubois	Rose Laflamme	June 21, 1933	Lafond	Rev. J.M. Boucher
Richard Chester	Therese Ouellette	June 26, 1933	Lafond	Rev. J.M. Boucher
Joe Etienne Côté	Blanche Marie Boivin	Oct. 14, 1933	Lafond	Rev. J.M. Boucher
Ernest Charbonneau	Louisa Foisy	Nov. 6, 1933	Lafond	Rev. J.M. Boucher
Rolland Dubois	Antoinette Laflamme	Nov. 24, 1933	Lafond	Rev. J.M. Boucher
Albert Brault	Mathilda Pigeau	Jan. 8, 1934	Lafond	Rev. J.M. Boucher
Arthur Dupuis	Anna Prysunka	Jan. 12, 1934	Lafond	Rev. J.M. Boucher
Ovila Jean	Rose Tremblay	Oct. 22, 1935	Lafond	Rev. Paul Mailloux
Herve Malo	Bernadette Brault	Oct. 18, 1936	Lafond	Rev. Paul Mailloux
Laurent Brault	Irene Malo	Oct. 18, 1936	Lafond	Rev. Paul Mailloux
Léo Robinson	Lucie Hrushka	Nov. 3, 1936	Lafond	Rev. Paul Mailloux
Peter Archinuk	Martha Harmatiuk	Nov. 21, 1936	Lafond	Rev. Paul Mailloux
Edgar McCullough	Eugenie Ouellette	June 28, 1937	Lafond	Rev. Paul Mailloux
Laurent Robinson	Jeannette Journault	Sept. 7, 1937	Lafond	Rev. Paul Mailloux
Joseph Pigeau	Lucienne Desaulniers	Oct. 21, 1937	Lafond	Rev. Paul Mailloux
Charles Lafrance	Irene Gagné	Oct. 28, 1937	Lafond	Rev. Paul Mailloux
Napoleon Tremblay	Gertrude Lafrance	Nov. 3, 1937	Lafond	Rev. Paul Mailloux
Felicien Fréchette	Bertha Viel	Nov. 18, 1937	Lafond	Rev. Paul Mailloux
Felix Paradis	Annie Hohol	Dec. 17, 1937	Lafond	Rev. Paul Mailloux
Emile Lefebvre	Léa Foisy	Nov. 15, 1938	Lafond	Rev. Paul Mailloux
Adrien Robinson	Arlie Yettaw	Nov. 24, 1938	Lafond	Rev. Paul Mailloux
Urgel Leroux	Marie Rose Ayotte	Feb. 20, 1939	Lafond	Rev. Paul Mailloux
Alphonse Lavoie	Laurette Desaulniers	May 9, 1939	Lafond	Rev. Paul Mailloux
Louis Billo	Marguerite Lavoie	June 15, 1939	Lafond	Rev. Paul Mailloux
Henri Neveu	Simone Desaulniers	Oct. 17, 1939	Lafond	Rev. Paul Mailloux
Antoine Tremblay	Yvette Lafrance	Nov. 14, 1939	Lafond	Rev. Paul Mailloux
Adrien Desaulniers	Leonille Lapointe	Jan. 16, 1940	Lafond	Rev. Paul Mailloux
Leon Lamoureux	Agatha Looy	May 6, 1940	Lafond	Rev. Paul Mailloux
Salomon Foisy	Julie Prysunka	June 20, 1940	Lafond	Rev. Paul Mailloux

Omer Lafrance	Gertrude Bergeron	July 1, 1940	Lafond	Rev. Paul Mailloux
Arge Gagné	Annette Desaulniers	July 3, 1940	Lafond	Rev. Paul Mailloux
Alphonse Malo	Candide Hurtubise	July 14, 1940	Lafond	Rev. Paul Mailloux
Henry Foisy	Rita Ternovoy	July 14, 1940	Lafond	Rev. Paul Mailloux
Leopold Bergeron	Simone Couillard	July 15, 1940	Lafond	Rev. Paul Mailloux
George Henley	Léona Gill	Jan. 2, 1941	Lafond	Rev. Paul Mailloux
Emile St. Arnault	Cecile Guindon	July 21, 1941	Lafond	Rev. Paul Mailloux
Zoel Robinson	Marie Cartier	Aug. 4, 1941	Lafond	Rev. Paul Mailloux
Jack Yettaw	Bella Oleciuk	Nov. 4, 1941	Lafond	Rev. Paul Mailloux
James Lavallée	Emilia Ayotte	Dec. 30, 1941	Lafond	Rev. Paul Mailloux
Aimé Malo	Germaine Robinson	Jan. 26, 1942	Lafond	Rev. Paul Mailloux
Evariste Gouin	Justine Gagné	Mar. 21, 1942	Lafond	Rev. Paul Mailloux
Alfred Vaillancourt	Jeannette Robinson	Nov. 23, 1942	Lafond	Rev. Paul Mailloux
Floris Looy	Laurette Jean	Nov. 26, 1942	Lafond	Rev. Paul Mailloux
Rosaire Moisin	Lucille Robinson	Jan. 16, 1943	Lafond	Rev. Paul Mailloux
Napoleon Blouin	Simone Bergeron	Mar. 2, 1943	Lafond	Rev. Paul Mailloux
William Rosychuk	Agnes Blaskaw	July 3, 1943	Lafond	Rev. Paul Mailloux
Maurice Jean	Helen Cartier	July 3, 1943	Lafond	Rev. Paul Mailloux
Léo Mailloux	Alice Lamoureux	Aug. 3, 1943	Lafond	Rev. Paul Mailloux
Joseph St. Jean	Stella Jean	Aug. 23, 1943	Lafond	Rev. Paul Mailloux
Wilfrid Desaulniers	Julianna Journault	Nov. 9, 1943	Lafond	Rev. Paul Mailloux
Ernest Tremblay	Emma Couillard	Nov. 23, 1943	Lafond	Rev. Paul Mailloux
Hormidas Paradis	Marguerite Yettaw	Nov. 23, 1943	Lafond	Rev. Paul Mailloux
Thomas Clark	Irene Desaulniers	Nov. 25, 1943	Lafond	Rev. Paul Mailloux
Emile Ayotte	Germaine Pigeon	Dec. 28, 1943	Lafond	Rev. Paul Mailloux
Ovide Noel	Gertrude Brault	Apr. 11, 1944	Lafond	Rev. Paul Mailloux
Albert Joly	Cecile Robinson	Apr. 17, 1944	Lafond	Rev. Paul Mailloux
Joseph Brosseau	Jeanne Desaulniers	June 19, 1944	Lafond	Rev. Paul Mailloux
Paul Fontaine	Helena Jean	July 3, 1944	Lafond	Rev. Paul Mailloux
Edmond Poirier	Roma Paradis	Apr. 28, 1944	Lafond	Rev. Paul Mailloux
Henry Chartier	Noella Robinson	Nov. 2, 1944	Lafond	Rev. Paul Mailloux
Philippe Robinson	Juliette Journault	Nov. 15, 1944	Lafond	Rev. Paul Mailloux
Herve Hurtubise	Françoise Coté	Nov. 21, 1944	Lafond	Rev. Paul Mailloux
Felix Robinson	Rita Pigeon	Dec. 27, 1944	Lafond	Rev. Paul Mailloux
Narcisse Robinson	Marie Ange Pigeon	Dec. 27, 1944	Lafond	Rev. Paul Mailloux
Robert Tomlinson	Cecile Jean	Nov. 19, 1945	Lafond	Rev. Paul Mailloux
Roland Bergeron	Antoinette Guindon	Dec. 27, 1945	Lafond	Rev. Paul Mailloux
Lucien Ayotte	Thérèse Coté	Apr. 23, 1946	Lafond	Rev. Paul Mailloux
Nick Hrushka	Noella Desaulniers	Apr. 24, 1946	Lafond	Rev. Paul Mailloux
William Chornohus	Virginia Yettaw	June 4, 1946	Lafond	Rev. Paul Mailloux
Arthur Jubinville	Marie Anna Gagné	July 4, 1946	Lafond	Rev. Paul Mailloux
Lionel Gagné	Albina Robinson	July 4, 1946	Lafond	Rev. Paul Mailloux
Louis-Aimé Tremblay	Rose Lafrenière	Aug. 6, 1946	Lafond	Rev. Paul Mailloux
Raymond Neveu	Gilberte Desaulniers	Oct. 15, 1946	Lafond	Rev. Paul Mailloux
Pierre Brault	Josephine Journault	Oct. 24, 1946	Lafond	Rev. Paul Mailloux
Joseph Gouin	Cecile Malo	Aug. 5, 1947	Lafond	Rev. Paul Mailloux
Jos Collins	Laura Dupuis	Oct. 30, 1947	Lafond	Rev. G. Michaud
Robert Lafrance	Marie Fontaine	May 10, 1948	Lafond	Rev. Paul Mailloux
Jules Journault	Fernande Desaulniers	June 2, 1948	Lafond	Rev. G. Michaud
Roger Bezaire	Rita Lafond	July 12, 1948	Lafond	Rev. G. Leduc
Antonio Marceau	Adrienne Foisy	Oct. 14, 1948	Lafond	Rev. Paul Mailloux
Lucien Poulin	Laurette Robinson	Oct. 26, 1948	Lafond	Rev. Paul Mailloux
George Lavallée	Rita Robinson	Oct. 26, 1948	Lafond	Rev. Paul Mailloux
Lucien Charbonneau	Antoinette Malo	Feb. 7, 1949	Lafond	Rev. Paul Mailloux
Marcel Bergeron	Annette Guindon	Aug. 9, 1949	Lafond	Rev. R. Barbeau
William Peterson	Georgette Desaulniers	Oct. 4, 1949	Lafond	Rev. Paul Mailloux
Jean Batisme Mercier	Denise Guindon	Apr. 11, 1950	Lafond	Rev. Paul Mailloux
Maurice Dubois	Louisa Malo	Dec. 27, 1950	Lafond	Rev. S. Loranger
Camille Robinson	Alma Robinson	May 15, 1951	Lafond	Rev. R. Lerouge

Albert Gill	Gilberte Malo	Mar. 5, 1951	Lafond	Rev. R. Lerouge
Germain Lafrenière	Irene Robinson	Nov. 12, 1951	Lafond	Rev. R. Lerouge
Maurice Robinson	Denise Lafrenière	Feb. 6, 1952	Lafond	Rev. R. Lerouge
Maurice Brosseau	Noella Desaulniers	June 10, 1952	Lafond	Rev. R. Lerouge
Raymond Desaulniers	Rita Foisy	July 8, 1952	Lafond	Rev. R. Lerouge
Aimé Foisy	Gabrielle Bergeron	July 8, 1952	Lafond	Rev. R. Lerouge
Alexandre Robinson	Hélène Robinson	Nov. 12, 1952	Lafond	Rev. R. Lerouge
Victor Lafrenière	Juliette Foisy	Apr. 7, 1953	Lafond	Rev. R. Lerouge
Jos Lafortune	Yvette Lafrenière	Oct. 29, 1953	Lafond	Rev. R. Lerouge
Rodolphe Coté	Léona Malo	July 13, 1954	Lafond	Rev. R. Lerouge
Victor Malo	Lorraine Lafortune	July 13, 1954	Lafond	Rev. R. Lerouge
Gaston Desaulniers	Lilian Chrapko	Oct. 26, 1954	Lafond	Rev. R. Lerouge
Raymond Lafrenière	Yvonne Malo	Nov. 9, 1954	Lafond	Rev. R. Lerouge
Alderic Foisy	Irene Boolsman	Dec. 19, 1954	Lafond	Rev. R. Lerouge
Robert Lamoureux	Julia Prysunka	July 19, 1955	Lafond	Rev. R. Lerouge
Henri Robinson	Pierrette Theroux	Nov. 19, 1955	Lafond	Rev. R. Lerouge
Paul Jos. Jodoin	Marjorie Marsh	Sept. 8, 1956	Lafond	Rev. A. Mathieu
Gabriel Giroux	Jeanne D'Arc Jean	Nov. 3, 1956	Lafond	Rev. R. Lerouge
Robert Desaulniers	Alma Foisy	Apr. 23, 1957	Lafond	Rev. R. Lerouge
Raymond Lacombe	Denise Malo	July 3, 1957	Lafond	Rev. R. Lerouge
Alexandre Blanchette	Solange Jean	July 13, 1957	Lafond	Rev. R. Lerouge
Fernand Couillard	Genevieve Mooshwa	Aug. 15, 1957	Lafond	Rev. R. Lerouge
Wilfrid Smith	Lorraine Pigeau	Aug. 17, 1957	Lafond	Rev. R. Lerouge
Edward Noel	Solange Tremblay	July 9, 1958	Lafond	Rev. R. Lerouge
Paul Brousseau	Isabelle Fréchette	July 22, 1958	Lafond	Rev. R. Lerouge
Hector Hamel	Jeanne Robinson	Aug. 23, 1958	Lafond	Rev. R. Lerouge
Leonard Faucher	Hélène Malo	Sept. 27, 1958	Lafond	Rev. G. Tardif
Pierre Charron	Henriette Brault	July 4, 1959	Lafond	Rev. A. Charron
George Braconnier	Shirley Krockmal	July 27, 1959	Lafond	Rev. G. Tardif
Aimé Malo	Marie Ange Robinson	Aug. 24, 1959	Lafond	Rev. Paul Mailloux
Laurent Brousseau	Marie Claire Tremblay	July 9, 1960	Lafond	Rev. G. Tardif
Henri Lafrenière	Georgette Robinson	Apr. 8, 1961	Lafond	Rev. G. Tardif
Sylvio Noel	Henriette Jean	Apr. 28, 1962	Lafond	Rev. G. Tardif
Carmen Maglions	Sophia Moosewah	July 2, 1962	Lafond	Rev. G. Tardif
Andre Ouellette	Helena Bergeron	July 7, 1962	Lafond	Rev. Joe Lachance
Russell Paziuk	Pauline Robinson	Oct. 20, 1962	Lafond	Rev. L. Tellier
Fernand Ouellette	Doris Brault	July 29, 1963	Lafond	Rev. L. Tellier
Kenneth Yettaw	Gloria Pabivoda	Oct. 26, 1963	Lafond	Rev. L. Tellier
Roger Theroux	Jeannette Brault	Dec. 28, 1963	Lafond	Rev. R. Theroux
Maurice Noel	Yvette Jean	July 4, 1964	Lafond	Rev. L. Tellier
Edmond Kriaski	Irene Pigeau	Oct. 10, 1964	Lafond	Rev. L. Tellier
Clement Dubrulle	Jeannette Paradis	Nov. 9, 1964	Lafond	Rev. L. Tellier
Henri Gauthier	Lorraine Steinhauer	Nov. 19, 1964	Lafond	Rev. L. Tellier
Steve Krankowsky	Marie Ange Malo	Aug. 7, 1965	Lafond	Rev. L. Tellier
Aurele Jean	Denise Desaulniers	Aug. 14, 1965	Lafond	Rev. L. Tellier
Robert Bouchard	Bertha Robinson	Jan. 8, 1966	Lafond	Rev. Herve Tanguay
Leon Blanchette	Diane Guindon	Apr. 30, 1966	Lafond	Rev. Herve Tanguay
James Blaskin	Doris Robinson	July 2, 1966	Lafond	Rev. Herve Tanguay
Roy Dolan	Yvette Foisy	May 20, 1967	Lafond	Rev. Herve Tanguay
Keith Douglas	Barbara Chornohus	June 10, 1967	Lafond	Rev. Herve Tanguay
David Austin	Viviane Malo	July 8, 1967	Lafond	Rev. Herve Tanguay
Irvin Logozar	Jeannette Journault	Aug. 12, 1967	Lafond	Rev. Jean Luc Pigeon
Emile Plouffe	Cecile Brault	Apr. 20, 1968	Lafond	Rev. Herve Tanguay
Henrecus Joharmes	Rita Desaulniers	Aug. 10, 1968	Lafond	Rev. A. Ricard
Gary Mailloux	Aline Brault	Aug. 24, 1968	Lafond	Rev. A. Ricard
Albert Tomlinson	Eleanor Howard	Nov. 30, 1968	Lafond	Rev. A. Ricard
Magella Pelchat	Yvonne Tremblay	1968	Lafond	Rev. A. Ricard
Roy Paquette	Dianne Gagné	Oct. 18, 1969	Lafond	Rev. A. Noel
Louis Robinson	Lucille Lord	Nov. 15, 1969	Lafond	Rev. E. Croteau

Laurence Ference	Denise Gagné	July 4, 1970	Lafond	Rev. A. Noel
Armand DeLasalle	Irene Tremblay	July 11, 1970	Lafond	Rev. A. Noel
Lionel Paradis	Wendy Gormley	Aug. 22, 1970	Lafond	Rev. E. Croteau
Julien Hebert	Marguerite Robinson	July 10, 1971	Lafond	Rev. A. Tetu
Daniel Dodds	Eva Robinson	Nov. 6, 1971	Lafond	Rev. A. Tetu
Eric Theroux	Diane Yettaw	May 27, 1972	Lafond	Rev. A. Tetu
Maurice Tomlinson	Theresa Case	Sept. 2, 1972	Lafond	Rev. A. Tetu
Edmond Paradis	Cheryl Latour	Oct. 14, 1972	Lafond	Rev. R. Grondin
Kenneth Wegner	Liliane Lafrenière	Aug. 4, 1973	Lafond	Rev. R. Grondin
Francis Dallaire	Rita Tremblay	Aug. 18, 1973	Lafond	Rev. R. Roy
Ronald Balash	Darlene Chornohus	Nov. 10, 1973	Lafond	Rev. R. Grondin
Gordon Dunning	Louise Tremblay	Apr. 6, 1973	Lafond	Rev. R. Grondin
John Penner	Louise Jean	Aug. 31, 1974	Lafond	Rev. R. Grondin
Real Amyotte	Leona Lafrance	Oct. 12, 1974	Lafond	Rev. R. Grondin
Harvey Malo	Joanne Bodnar	Oct. 26, 1974	Lafond	Rev. R. Grondin
Glenn Parker	Delina Lafrenière	Nov. 8, 1975	Lafond	Rev. R. Grondin
Dale Leckie	Marie Line Journault	Aug. 28, 1976	Lafond	Rev. L. Derome
Julien Pigeon	Lorraine Brault	Nov. 13, 1976	Lafond	Rev. L. Derome
Harold Povaschuk	Lucille Tremblay	May 7, 1977	Lafond	Rev. L. Derome
Bernard Joly	Colette Lafrance	Oct. 15, 1977	Lafond	Rev. L. Derome
Gilles Marquis	Helene Tremblay	May 13, 1978	Lafond	Rev. L. Derome
Daniel Logozar	Patricia Dubois	July 29, 1978	Lafond	Rev. L. Derome
Douglas Redmond	Doris Gagné	Aug. 12, 1978	Lafond	Rev. L. Derome
Emile Desaulniers	Karen Atkins	June 30, 1979	Lafond	Rev. L. Derome
Allen Fodchuk	Lorraine Robinson	Aug. 18, 1979	Lafond	Rev. L. Derome
Gerald Bachelet	Suzanne Lafrenière	Sept. 6, 1980	Lafond	Rev. L. Derome
Robert Tomlinson	Terry Seiller	Nov. 15, 1980	Lafond	Rev. L. Derome

BURIAL IN LAFOND ROMAN CATHOLIC CEMETERY

Due to some missing death registers, the submitted list may be incomplete. Furthermore the names submitted were published below exactly as they were entered.

Marie Florence Robinson	Jan. 1, 1917	1 month, 15 days	Alice Saunders	May 28, 1924	15 days
Justine Foisy	Mar. 23, 1917	4 months	Marie Foisy	June 29, 1924	14 days
Joseph Foisy	Oct. 14, 1917	1 hour	Clerina Lefebvre		
Bella Laboucane	July 19, 1918	26 years	(Naults)	Aug. 6, 1924	65 years
Etienne Fouquette	July 22, 1918	1 hour	Arsene Gouin	Aug. 10, 1924	75 years
Marie Robinson	Jan. 28, 1919	1 day	Yvonne Henley	Jan. 4, 1925	8 years
Henri Malo	Feb. 19, 1919	13 years	Virginie Paradis		
Helen Pigeau	Feb. 27, 1919	9 months	(Larouche)	Apr. 9, 1925	85 years
Marie Rosanna Gill	Mar. 5, 1919	3 years, 4 months	Rosanna Laflamme		
Victor Olivier Foisy	Jan. 17, 1920	7 years	(Sinette)	Apr. 25, 1925	66 years
Clara Laboucane	Mar. 11, 1920	3 years	Emily Saunders	June 2, 1925	1 day
Marie Tremblay	Sept. 4, 1920	1 day	Omer Henley	Oct. 25, 1925	11 years
Marie Laflamme	Nov. 20, 1920	1 day	Marcel Foisy	June 22, 1926	61 years
Joseph Poitras	Dec. 3, 1921	49 years, 10 months	Antoinette Leblanc	Sept. 30, 1926	9 days
Joseph Lafrenière	Jan. 8, 1921	29 years, 9 months	Adolphe Raymond	Feb. 27, 1927	
Cecile Louise Guindon	Jan. 9, 1921	2 months	Labrecque		11 months
Jeannette Laflamme	Apr. 3, 1921	9 years, 4 months	Victor Foisy	Apr. 4, 1927	6 years
Joseph Adrien Henley	Oct. 20, 1921	1 year, 10 days	Marie Henley (Marin)	Aug. 31, 1927	68 years
Simon Lavoie	Jan. 24, 1922	11 years, 7 months	Robella Moisan	Mar. 21, 1928	54 years
Etienne Fouquette	May 17, 1922	73 years	Maria Robinson	Oct. 13, 1928	1 day
Auguste Lavoie	Nov. 21, 1922	39 years	George Robinson	Oct. 23, 1928	66 years
Elie Lafrenière	Mar. 16, 1923	61 years	Mary Clark	Dec. 8, 1928	76 years
Mary Snaychuk	July 6, 1923	54 years	Laurette Foisy	Dec. 29, 1928	8 years
Blanche Lord (Lemay)	Feb. 15, 1924	37 years	Marguerite Paradis		
Emilie Celina Laflamme	Apr. 26, 1924	1 month	(Villeneuve)	Apr. 22, 1929	54 years
Cecile Brault	Mar. 23, 1924	3 days	Alphonsine Desaulniers		
			(Caron)	June 1, 1929	65 years, 6 months
			Richard Toutant	Nov. 4, 1929	3 days
			Gaudras Toutant	Nov. 12, 1929	10 days
			Fabiana Blanchette	Nov. 24, 1929	3 months
			Denise Foisy (Vincent)	Jan. 9, 1930	24 years

Anna Pigeau (Beaudry)	Sept. 26, 1930	56 years	Lovina Foisy (Brault)	Mar. 16, 1942	51 years
Charles Borommé Lafond	Nov. 21, 1930	89 years	Joseph Journault	Oct. 5, 1943	63 years
Francois Courtemanche	Aug. 17, 1931	58 years	Fernand Manseau	Aug. 7, 1944	46 years
Pauline Foisy	Aug. 19, 1931	2 years, 5 months	Baby Tremblay (Ernest)	Oct. 19, 1944	9 hours
Pierre Coté	Oct. 16, 1931	44 years	Albert Brault	Dec. 27, 1944	36 years
Steve Eskow	Aug. 8, 1932	4 months	Hector Robinson	Nov. 14, 1945	3 months
Marie Jeanne Jean (Dumont)	Aug. 17, 1932	34 years	Justine Gouin (Gagne)	Jan. 19, 1946	40 years
Baby Jean (Philias)	Aug. 17, 1932		Ademay Foisy (Dupuis)	Mar. 12, 1946	54 years
Clementine Noel (Desaulniers)	Jan. 11, 1933	73 years	Roger Robinson	Apr. 7, 1946	6 months
Joseph Robinson	Mar. 13, 1933	49 years	Baby Jean (Hector)	May 12, 1946	1 hour
Thomas Desaulniers	May 23, 1933	71 years	Rosaire Trudel	Nov. 22, 1946	71 years
Baby Robinson (Francis)	Oct. 22, 1933		Marie Robinson (Fortin)	Nov. 22, 1946	62 years
Elise Couture (Jean)	Mar. 12, 1934	55 years	Nazaire Robinson	Dec. 6, 1946	93 years
Joseph Robinson	Apr. 25, 1934	4 hours	Borromée Lafond (Junior)	June 26, 1947	60 years
Yvonne Desaulniers (Guenette)	Apr. 26, 1934	40 years	Thérèse Coté (Ayotte)	July 5, 1947	20 years
Elie Lefebvre	June 27, 1934	79 years	Fred Snaychuk	July 21, 1947	78 years
Victor Blanchette	Aug. 27, 1934	12 days	Michel Laframboise	Aug. 1, 1947	72 years
Jency Yettaw	Jan. 6, 1934	20 years, 6 months	Odile Foisy (Pigeau)	Aug. 6, 1947	82 years
Baby Cote (Robert)	Oct. 3, 1934		Antoine Tremblay	Aug. 19, 1947	31 years
Lorraine Desaulniers	Mar. 15, 1935	13 months	Maurice Robinson	Jan. 30, 1948	26 years
Marie Blanchette	Mar. 23, 1935	1 hour	Charles Desaulniers	Feb. 19, 1948	84 years
Roger Joseph Lafrenière	Mar. 27, 1935	4 days	Henri Malo	Aug. 26, 1948	6 years
Frank Desaulniers	Mar. 27, 1935	80 years	Clement Coté	Oct. 11, 1949	18 years
Marie Louise Auclair	July 22, 1935	18 months	Albert Lapointe	Mar. 29, 1950	3 months
Omer Coté	Mar. 24, 1936	46 years	Tarcille Foisy (Pigeau)	Apr. 8, 1950	82 years
Marcel Edmond Auclair	Apr. 12, 1936	1 month, 24 days	Paul Lapointe	Dec. 21, 1951	3 months, 18 days
Casildie Fouquette (Montcalm)	Apr. 19, 1936	85 years	Richard Robinson	Mar. 23, 1951	1 year
Baby Couillard (Philippe)	July 7, 1936		Nick Krushka	May 12, 1951	34 years
Alice Jean (Dumont)	Sept. 20, 1936	51 years	Lorraine Slefendurfas	Oct. 21, 1951	2 months
Leopold Jean	Nov. 25, 1936	21 years	Raymond Lapointe	Mar. 21, 1952	3 months, 21 days
Marie Rose Laframboise (Cardinal)	Mar. 18, 1937	64 years	Raymond Robinson	Mar. 20, 1953	1 day
Donat Elzear Robinson	Mar. 30, 1937	14 months	Mariette Robinson	Apr. 10, 1953	1 year, 3 months
Mary Pigeau (Holly)	Apr. 10, 1937	64 years	Michel Lafrance	Apr. 20, 1953	1 month, 7 days
Gaspard Malo	Apr. 27, 1937	2 years, 11 months	Roger Gagné	May 16, 1953	6 months, 16 days
Vianney Doyon	May 13, 1937	23 days	Philippe Couillard	July 11, 1953	63 years
Baby Moisan (Antonio)	July 24, 1937		Adrien Desaulniers	Aug. 24, 1953	61 years
Eugenie Robinson	Apr. 18, 1937	9 years	Solomon Foisy	Sept. 25, 1953	60 years
Marie Adèle Robinson (Brenier)	Oct. 12, 1937	82 years	Albert Robinson	May 8, 1954	12 years, 7 months
Marie Louise Lafrenière	June 19, 1938	75 years, 8 days	Achille Lafrenière	June 30, 1954	53 years
Elphege Lafrenière	Mar. 12, 1939	42 years, 11 months	Leo Robinson	Apr. 27, 1954	10 months
Oliva Bussière	Apr. 6, 1939	57 years	Donna Bodnar	Feb. 10, 1955	1 month
Williamine Robinson	Apr. 6, 1939	76 years	Ernestine Lafond	May 3, 1955	86 years
André Foisy	Sept. 1, 1939	5 years	Adrien Jean	July 22, 1955	27 years
Marguerite Rose Robinson	Nov. 1, 1939	6 days	Paul Robinson (Baby)	Sept. 27, 1955	
Lorraine Robinson	Nov. 4, 1939	9 days	Basile Jean	Apr. 22, 1957	77 years
Yvette Moisan	Jan. 19, 1940	6 months	Eugene Robinson	May 19, 1957	17 years
Alphonse Foisy	Mar. 30, 1940	79 years, 11 months	Oscar Guindon	June 14, 1957	80 years
Edmond Robinson	May 7, 1940	49 years	Elzear Foisy	Nov. 11, 1957	73 years
Robert Coté	May 29, 1940	44 years	Richmond Malo	May 28, 1960	84 years
Louis Noel	June 25, 1940	80 years	Xavier Brault	July 23, 1960	78 years
Bertha Gagné (Noel)	Sept. 2, 1940	51 years	Rose Marie Labrecque	May 17, 1962	1 year, 3 months
Leonard Lafond	Oct. 12, 1940	70 years	George Tardif (Priest)	July 5, 1962	49 years
Rachel Robinson	Feb. 20, 1941	15 months	Michel Tremblay (Baby)	May 17, 1963	
Maria Robinson (Lafrenière)	Apr. 25, 1941	52 years	Philias Jean	Aug. 2, 1965	73 years
Baby Tremblay (Napoleon)	Aug. 27, 1941	6 hours	Remi Bergeron	Dec. 10, 1965	6 weeks
Baby Tremblay (Napoleon)	Aug. 27, 1941	9 hours	Emile Malo	Feb. 27, 1966	76 years
Edmond Foisy	Dec. 24, 1941	74 years	Nicholas Malo (Baby)	June 1, 1966	
			Marie Louise Foisy (Charbonneau)	July 30, 1966	90 years
			Alphonsine Robinson (Demers)	Oct. 27, 1967	74 years
			Raymond Bergeron (Baby)	Nov. 1, 1967	
			Laurent Foisy	July 5, 1968	50 years
			Michel Tremblay	Sept. 20, 1968	1 day
			Gerard Malo	Apr. 9, 1969	3 months

Alcidas Ricard (Priest)	May 8, 1969	53 years
Marie Anna Journault	May 29, 1969	
Alfred Robinson	Dec. 26, 1969	50 years
Odilon Gagné	Apr. 25, 1971	99 years
Arthur Foisy	Jan. 12, 1972	70 years
Alphonse Robinson	Aug. 25, 1972	79 years
Florence Desaulniers	Oct. 17, 1972	76 years
Joseph Foisy (Baby)	July 22, 1971	
Real Robinson	June 24, 1973	26 years
Robert Desaulniers	June 24, 1973	18 years
Helen Jean (Cartier)	June 23, 1973	54 years
Noella St. Jean (Jean)	Sept. 22, 1973	53 years
Adolphe Labrecque	June 6, 1975	77 years
Alice Guindon	Aug. 30, 1975	79 years
Edward Robinson	Feb. 20, 1976	88 years
Delvina Malo (Caron)	Feb. 18, 1977	96 years
Camilla Malo (Foisy)	Sept. 15, 1978	83 years
Marie Louise Bouchard	Jan. 23, 1979	85 years
Annette Foisy (Lefebvre)	May 11, 1979	37 years
Jeannette Robinson		
(Journault)	June 9, 1979	62 years
Mike Slefenderfas	June 19, 1979	70 years
Henri Foisy	Nov. 18, 1979	66 years
Maurice Jean	Aug. 7, 1980	61 years
Paul Robinson	Sept. 21, 1980	56 years

ST. BERNARD OF LAFOND SAVINGS AND CREDIT UNION LTD.

Founded in 1943.

Certificate of Incorporation April 9, 1943. No. 92

Reverend Father Paul Mailloux, our parish priest at the time, saw a need for a Credit Union in the community and acted on it. On April 9, 1943 a Certificate of Incorporation was signed by the Registrar of Credit Unions for Alberta for the St. Bernard of Lafond Savings and Credit Union.

One week later, a meeting for the election of committees was called, and the board of directors were: René Desaulniers, Leo Mailloux, Hector Jean, Arge Gagné, Marie-Anna Gagné. The people on the Credit Committee were: Pierre Laventure, Joe Lafrance, Maurice W. Desaulniers, and the supervisory committee members were: Rev. Paul Mailloux, Joseph Lapointe, Eugene Lamoureux. At this time Rev. Paul Mailloux was the acting secretary-treasurer.



Rev. Paul Mailloux, organizer of the study of Credit Unions which ended in the formation of the St. Bernard of Lafond, Savings and Credit Union Ltd. in April 1943. He also was acting secretary for two months, and served as a member of the first supervisory committee.



Alphonse Malo, who from 1962 to the present, has been looking after the books of the Lafond Credit Union.

Two weeks later another meeting was called for the nomination of the officials who were: President — René Desaulniers, Vice-President — Hector Jean. For the credit committee the president was Pierre Laventure, and the vice-president was Joe Lafrance. Alphonse Drapeau was elected as secretary-treasurer.

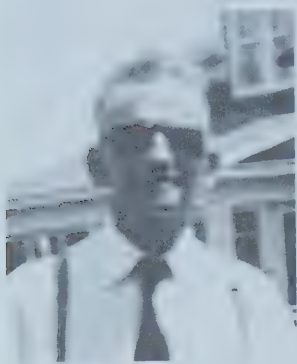
On May 26, 1943, the first loan was granted. It was for \$25.00, and a sow, valued at \$50.00 was put up as security. The terms were for three months to be repaid in one payment at the expiration of the three months. The very next loan granted on June 14, 1943 was the smallest loan to date. The loan was for \$10.00. The terms were for ten months at a dollar per month. A cow valued at \$75.00 was put as collateral.

The installation of the office had to be dealt with. The expenses read as follows: Stamps 25¢ — Bonds \$3.00 — Loose Leaf Binder \$3.65 — Fountain Pen and ledger sheets \$3.55 — and a cabinet for office papers was to be built. By July, the Credit Union was well on its way with an astounding membership of 79 members. By December of the same year, the interest rate was 6% and the year ended with the decision not to give dividends for the first seven months of operation.

The following years were profitable for the members of the Lafond Credit Union. Some years it even gave rebates on interest paid on loans. This was decided by the Board of Directors.

Every year all the members were invited to attend an annual meeting, at which the order of business was; first the financial report, then the election of new committee members and then the card party, followed by coffee and doughnuts.

In 1948, Alphonse Drapeau resigned his post and Mrs. Annette Gagné, took over as secretary-treasurer. She held this position for 14 years.



Alphonse Drapeau, first official secretary-treasurer of the Lafond Credit Union from June, 1943 to 1948.

In 1962, Alphonse Malo became the secretary-treasurer. By this time the office furniture included an eight-hundred-pound safe. When it came to move this into Alphonse's house, there was quite a discussion: Would the floor be strong enough to support it? But it was finally decided to roll it on wooden planks. It has been sitting in the corner ever since and hasn't gone through the floor yet.

Business hours . . . well there were none. The credit union did as much business after supper and/or before breakfast as it did during the day, seven days a week.



Mrs. Annette Gagne took over as secretary-treasurer in 1948 and carried on until 1962.

The Lafond Credit Union had been formed to help the farming community that surrounds the hamlet of Lafond. Through the 37 years of its operation, it has helped the farmers buy land, farm machinery, trucks, cars, and livestock. Sometimes the loans were for operating expenses, following a poor crop year, a few loans were to help students who wished to complete their education. As of December 1980, the Credit Union had accumulated assets of \$462,000 and some 202 members.

The 1980-81 Officials of the Lafond Credit Union are:

President: Leopold Bergeron

Vice-President: Clement Jean

Board of Directors:

Leopold Bergeron, Clement Jean, Roger Theroux, Urbain Michaud, and André Malo.

Credit Committee: Robert Tomlinson, Chairman — Members — Richard Malo, and Henri Robinson.

Supervisory Committee: Chairman, Gerard Tremblay, and other members — Thérèse Théroux, Jules Journault.

POST OFFICE:

In 1907, the first post office was in the home of Borromé Lafond Sr., just one and a half miles west of Lafond cross roads and was operated by him for 11 years. Then it was moved to Lafond hamlet in 1918 in the Mr. Hermidas Manta Store. Then Mr. Severin LeBlanc operated the store and post office in this building till 1928. Raoul Rouillard took it over till 1936. He was also secretary for the Municipal District during that time. Robert Coté was the last one to operate a store in this building. He only had it for one or two years. In 1930 Edmond Robinson built a store on the west side of the street. He had the post office in this building for 10 years till 1940. The store and the post office then were taken over by Mr. Achille Lafrenière. Mrs. Rachel Lafrenière was postmistress for 35 years and retired from this post in 1975. Now the postmistress is Mrs. Yvonne Lafrenière.

SISTERS OF HOLY CROSS

The Sisters of Holy Cross came to Lafond in 1939 at the demand of the parish priest, Rev. Paul Mailloux. A house had been located across the road from the rectory, close to the school. At first only two came: a teacher and the other, a cook and housekeeper. Two years later another teacher came, and so from 1941-49, the two teachers at Lafond School were Sisters of Holy Cross. From 1961-64, there were three and from 1964-66 two.



Sr. Marie de St. Eugene at Lafond, Alberta 1942-1943.



Sr. Marie de St. Agnes d'Assise in Lafond 1964.

From 1966-71, Sister Gertrude Marleau was alone and in 1971 she left to go to Fort McMurray. Besides the teachers of the regular classes, for many years a teacher-aide came for an hour a day helping to teach French and for Religion. There were also music teachers, at the convent, for several years. It was most convenient for the students wishing to take music lessons. Singing was also the responsibility of these music teachers. Beautiful songs were presented at the St. Paul festivals. These were well appreciated by the audience and fondly remembered by the participants. Two of the better remembered ones were: "Partons, la mer est belle" where all the boys and girls had sailor suits and stood beside a boat. Another was "Le Sansonnet". This was a small bird that was hunted by a hawk.

The parish was indeed very fortunate and everyone is most grateful to the Order of the Sisters of the Holy Cross, who for 32 years supplied such fine devoted teachers.

A list follows with the names by which we knew them, and in brackets what it is now. A few have left the order and are married and their married name is also given, for the convenience of anyone who wishes to contact them.



Sr. Alfred (Florence Leduc) — Principal of Lafond School 1954-1959.



Mrs. Thérèse Théroux, Sr. Charles Albert, and Marie-Ange Lavoie.
Taken in 1954.



Front row: Dénise Théroux, Sr. Euriella, Rita Bartholomew.
Back row: Sr. Charles Albert, Sr. Bernadette, Sr. Louis. Taken in 1954, the day of Rita's First Communion.

The telephone numbers and address of Sisters of Holy Cross in Edmonton is given, where further information can be had on the whereabouts of any of these Sisters.

Address: 9316 - 82 Ave.
Edmonton, Alberta
T6C 0Z6

Telephone: 469-1954
465-4138

Lists of Sisters of Holy Cross who have worked in Lafond. A few may not be in the order that they were here.

Sr. Marie Thérèse Avila (Yvonne Villeneuve)
Sr. Marie of St. Miriam (Miriam Keiser)
Sr. St. Germaine (Germaine Lambert)
Sr. Marie St. Eugene (_____)
Sr. Marie St. Wilfrida (Elizabeth Reid)
Sr. Marie Francesca (_____)

Sr. Charles Alberta (Lolita Galipeau)
 Sr. St. Catherine (Catherine Côté)
 Sr. St. Louis de Rome (Catherine Albert)
 Sr. St. Alfred (Florence Leduc)
 Sr. George Arthur (Marguerite de Villiers)
 Sr. Aimé (Bertha Chartier)
 Sr. Suzanne (Thérèse Jasmin)
 Sr. Robert Abbé (Thérèse Mercier)
 Sr. Marie Thérèse des Anges (Thérèse Laurion)
 Sr. Arthur (Renée Piché) (Ms. Renée Piché)
 Sr. Yvette du Sacré Coeur (Yvette Lacombe)
 (Mrs. Du Giobbi)
 Sr. St. Yvonne (Yvonne Brien)
 Sr. Arthur du Sauveur (Gertrude Marleau)
 Sr. Marie des Oliviers (Suzanne Baron)
 Sr. David de Cluny (Marie-Cécile Albert)
 Sr. Bernadette Soubirou (Gracia Lauzon)
 Sr. Rose Léonide (Alice Paré)
 Sr. Roger du Rosaire (Liliane Mercier)

Sr. Alice de Bloie (Alice Desfossés)
 Sr. Madeleine de Pazzé (Simone Lalonde)
 Sr. Anne de Lima (Rollande Brodeur)
 Sr. Jérôme (Cecile Poirier)
 Sr. Georges Edmond (Lucille Verrault)
 Sr. Guy Raphael (Aimée-Rose Lachance)
 Sr. Frances Cabrini (Miss Anita Blimkey)
 Sr. Yvette (Ramona Routhier) (Mrs. Stan Hergert)
 Sr. Florence D'Espagne (Florence Mercier)
 Sr. St. Vincent (Lucia-Rose Gingras)
 Sr. St. Paul Martyr (Denise-Thérèse Norin)
 Sr. Marthe (Marie-Jeanne Groulx)
 Sr. Lucille d'Esperance (Rachel Desjardins)
 Sr. Agnes (Madeleine-Elaine Milette)
 Sr. Euriella (Adrienne Dumais)
 Sr. Marie Tharsilla (deceased)
 Sr. St. Joachim (_____)
 Sr. St. Joseph de la Paix (_____)
 Sr. Marie du Bon Conseil (_____)
 Sr. Agnes d'Assisis (_____)

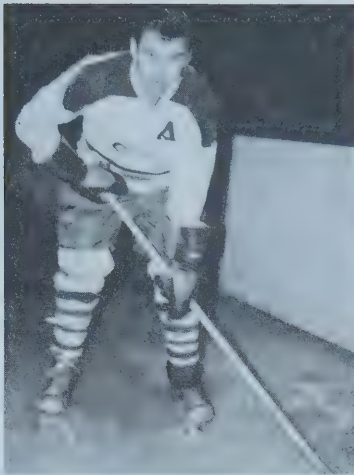


Farmstead of Joseph Journault, Jean Charles, Jeannette, Julianna, Juliette.

SPORTS



1st row: Bernard Vaillancourt, Paul Rouillard. 2nd row: Tony Devlin, Lionel Gagne, Zoel Robinson, Paul Fouquette, Maurice Gagné, Jos Fouquette, Jules Journault. 3rd row: Adelard Dupuis, Joe Journault, Joachim Robinson, Jean C. Journault, Fred Vaillancourt, Jos Devlin, Leo Robinson, Germain Gagné, Romeo Fouquette. Sunday afternoon picnic at Joseph Journault's farm.



Alcide Brault 16 years old playing hockey for St. Paul Canadian — 1964.



Liliane Brault playing shotput.



Liliane Brault playing fastball in 1978.



Jean Charles Journault — 17 yrs.



Massey Ferguson winners for the St. Paul Zones. Play-off in Edmonton, Victor Lafrenière, Aimé Malo, Zoel Robinson, Jean-Charles Journault, Bill Tannas, Hector Gervais — 1964.



André Desaulniers No. 9 with the Two Hills Eagle 1977-78.



Ronald and Aurele Jean with some furs trapped in 1980-81. Mink, lynx and beaver.



Lionel Gagné and Aurele Jean shot deer with locked horns — 1972.



Lavoie boys and mother. Damase, Real (only cap), Alphonse at Cold Lake, 1929, holding pole from which four fine trout are hanging. Mrs. Diana Lavoie (Tremblay), holding other end of pole, Victor.



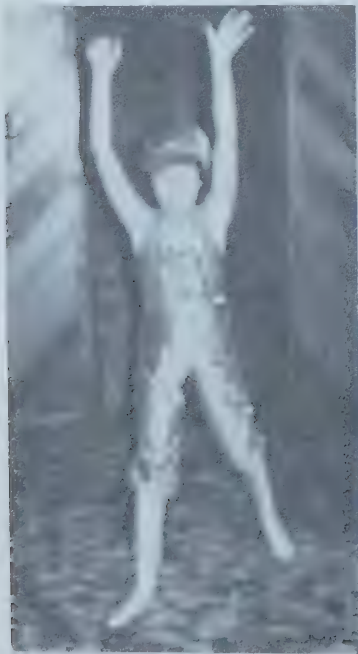
André Desaulniers No. 10 playing for the St. Paul Juvenile Canadiens.



Trevor Brault, playing hockey 1979-80. 7 years old, Sherwood Park, Alta.



Liliane playing hockey for Edmonton Chimos, 1978-79.



Christine Brault, dancing at Citadel Theatre in Edmonton, 1979.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT BONSPIEL — Was held in Elk Point on Saturday, February 19th. The rink achieving the highest point total consisted of skip Paul Stepa, 3rd, Bob Smith; 2nd Rudolph Cote, and lead John Zenko. County Field Man Steve Strynadka presented the North East Alberta Rural Municipal Bonspiel Trophy to the winners. Fourteen rinks representing Two Hills, Vermilion, St. Paul and Bonnyville participated in the day long event. Spiel sponsors were heavy equipment dealers, Crown Tire and Torchinsky Consulting Engineers. Bonnyville will host the annual event in 1978.

LAFOND STORES:

Jacob Nicklechuk opened a store in 1910 on the N.W. 36-56-11-4, now Roland Foisy's farm, just across the road, south of Mr. Barromé Lafond Sr.'s farm. In 1916, he moved his store to the corner of the next quarter east, just north of the old Snaychuk buildings, and in 1920 moved to St. Paul.

In 1917, Pete Brunelle had built a store in Lafond. It was situated along the road to St. Paul, on the west side of the road, north of the present store. He operated it for a year or so. Wilfrid Cloutier bought and moved it to the present site of the Lafond Store.

In 1918, Mr. Manta built the large building on the south-west corner of 5-57-10-4 and opened it as a store, having living quarters upstairs. In November of the same year, the post office was moved from Borromé Sr.'s place to the Manta store, shortly after it had opened.

In 1920, another store was opened by Alphonse Drapeau, west of the present store. It was closed in 1925 and reopened by Emile Malo for some time.

In 1923, Elphege Trudel took over the Manta store and shortly after, Severin LeBlanc had it until 1928. Then, until 1936, Raoul Rouillard had taken it over. It again changed hands. Robert Côté operated

the store and post office for a few years. John Arteniuk had a repair shop in the northern part of the building. He repaired harness, shoes, etc. for a few years.

In 1930, Edmond Robinson built onto the building built by Pete Brunelle and already on the corner directly north of the church. He used this new front part as a store, the old part for living quarters. In 1940, this store was bought by Achille Lafrenière. The Lafrenière Store also housed the Alberta Government Telephone switchboard. Telephone bills were paid at the store, any complaints about the phones were received and passed on to the headquarters. Upon retirement in 1975, Mrs. Rachel Lafrenière received an award and a plaque for 21 years of Service as an Agent for A.G.T.

A fourth store was built in about 1938 by Antony Desaulniers, west of the other stores. In 1941, this store was taken over by Oney Belland who stayed in business for 6 years or so. Then Mr. McDonald tried his hand at it for a few years. The building was then sold and moved to St. Paul.

The only store left in Lafond at this time is the Lafrenière Store, owned and operated by Mrs. Rachel Lafrenière and her son and daughter-in-law, Raymond and Yvonne.



The R. Lafrenière store in Lafond, built in 1930.



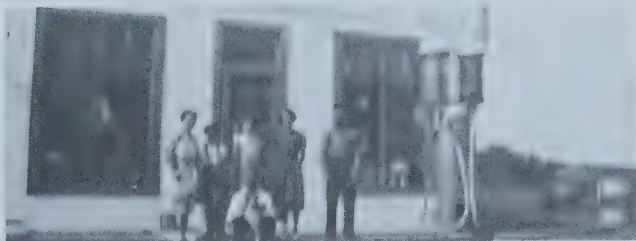
Rouillard general store and Lafond country school built in 1911.
Note hitching rail on right side of store.



Mr. and Mrs. Edmond Robinson.



The Rouillard Store at Lafond in the 1930's — l to r: Evariste Guoin, P.R. Rouillard, his son Paul, John Artiniuk's Repair Shop later was in the northern part of this building. John repaired harnesses, shoes, etc.



Mr. and Mrs. Antony Desaulniers' store in Lafond — 1939.



Lafrenière trucks and school buses in 1949.

There were a few that decided to try trucking for a business. Alcide Foisy started with a truck, hauling grain and livestock. He hauled grain to St. Paul and livestock to Edmonton. Then Albert Brault got himself a truck and I believe they did a good job of it. After a while Antony Desaulniers joined them with his own truck. They did that for quite a few years,

and then went somewhere else. Achille Lafrenière had got a truck by that time. He kept the business going for many years after, as his boys were old enough to truck. They took over with their Dad and in 1949, bought schoolbuses. The boys, Victor and Raymond, are still running school buses, bringing students to the St. Paul Schools.



Threshing crew in the early 20's in Lafond. Francois Xavier Brault is the first on the left.

FARMSTEADS



The Napoleon Bergeron farmstead in the late 1940's.



SE 21 where Leopold and Simone Bergeron lived for their first twenty years of marriage.



Henri Lafrenière's first farm. — taken in Lafond.



Aime and Gabrielle Foisy's
farmstead — taken 1955.



Farmstead of Real and Helen
Lavoie — taken app. 1956.



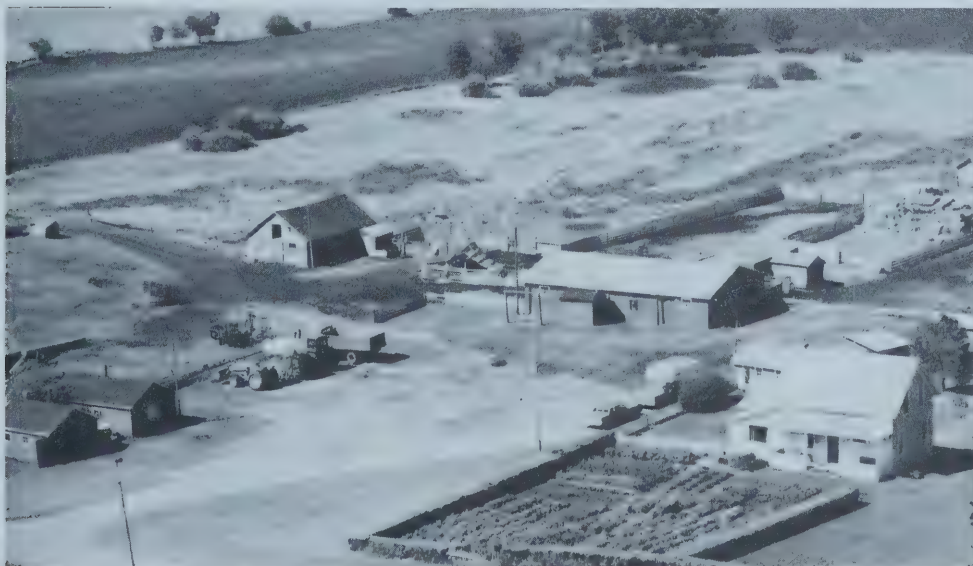
Farmstead of Joe and Cecile
Pigeon — taken in 1959.



Taken 1953 — Mr. and Mrs.
Eugene Foisy's farmstead.



The Hector Jean farmstead
around the year 1948.



Leopold Bergeron farmstead.
NE 21 where we moved in 1960.
Taken about 1976. It shows the
barn that was rebuilt after
disastrous fire.



Aurele and Denise Jean
farmstead.



Aerial view of the Lafrance farm
as it looked in the mid-fifties.



Henry Martin — Centennial
Furniture Barn Ltd.

FOISY SCHOOL HISTORY

by Aime and Gabrielle Foisy

In the early 1900's land seekers from Eastern Canada and USA began to settle in the district. Big Fish Lake, now known as Lac Sante was an attraction, giving them a good water supply, also plenty of fish and wild life, very important for their survival. Most of the district was homesteaded in 1905 and 1906. The homesteaders, being strong and courageous built log cabins covered with sod and broke the land.

With the increasing number of children in the district, some form of education was needed.

On May 10, 1906 Big Fish Lake School district No. 1494 was established comprising of the following lands: Sections 20-29, 32-36, in Township 56, Range 11; and sections 1-5 in Township 57, Range 11, West of the Fourth Meridian.

The Senior Trustee at the time was Leonard Lafond of Lafond, Alberta.

On March 25, 1907 the following lands were withdrawn: Section 36 and those portions of sections 23, 24 and 25, East of Big Fish Lake in Township 56, Range 11; and Section 1 in Township 57, Range 11, West of the Fourth Meridian.

On April 30, 1907 the sum of \$800.00 was borrowed for the purpose of purchasing and improving a school site, and for erecting and furnishing a

school building. It was located on the NW corner of Section 27-56-11-4. This parcel, comprising of approximately two acres of land, was donated by Mr. Johnson. It was agreed that the land be the property of the school district as long as there was a school building on it.

The Secretary Treasurer at the time was A.K. Olsen of Brosseau, Alberta.



Taken 1941. The Year Big Fish Lake School changed name to Foisy School. Some students at year end picnic. Lucia Brosseau (Robinson) was the teacher. In the background is the school building which was constructed in 1907.



Class of 1948-49 Foisy School. Last row: L.-R. Metro Chrapko, Donald Paradis, Clifford Marsh, Raymond Paradis, Felix Foisy, Aladin Foisy, Henry Foisy, Johnny Polachuk, Hubert Foisy. Second row: Helen Robinson, Helen Malo, Alma Foisy, Ernestine Paradis, Margerie Marsh, Jean Robinson, Laurette Foisy, Norris Pundick, Mable Ternovoy. Third row: Peter Polachuk, Alice Foisy, Lilian Pundick. Teacher — Mrs. Mary Grekul, Nettie Kruse, Edith Marsh, Albert Eskow. Front row: Maurice Paradis, James Polachuk, Hector Malo, Henriette Robinson, Jean Polachuk, (holding card) Patricia Grekul and Ernest Ternovoy, Eric Foisy, Victor Lakusta, Lionel Foisy, Robert Foisy, Walter Lakusta, missing — Rosie Eskow.

Souvenir of our School



Count that day lost
Whose low descending sun
Wears from thy hand
Now thy action done

Souvenir of Big Fish Lake Class of 1919.
Miss Ella Landry (Demers) was the teacher.

LIFE'S MIRROR

MEDLINE BRIDGES

For life is the mirror
of king and slave.
'Tis just what we
are and do:
Then give to the world
the best you have.
And the best will
come back to you.

To you, my pupils,

I dedicate

this
Souvenir of our School,

believing that it will in

the future, furnish

"Sweet Remembrances"

of
School Days

spent together here

Let her do her worst

There are others

Bright dreams of the past

Which she cannot destroy

Which come in the night-time

Of sorrow and care

And bring back the features

That joy used to wear

Long and in my heart

With such memories filled!

Let the wind in which rains

Have been distilled

Yet may bring you no shelter

The wind will

Be the same

It will

DUTY

It is our duty, one and all,

To do our best;

To live a life which time may prove

To be a test

Of virtue, honesty and truth

As ages roll

With steady, firm, unchanging speed

To higher goals

It is our duty, one and all,

To do our best;

To lift the fallen, poor and weak

With willing hearts;

To stand united, work as one

For truth and right;

To lead the weary, flustered soul

To freedom's light.

It is our duty, one and all,

To clear the way

To build a bridge to higher places

From day to day;

To do our share of honest toil

In court and law

To make the world divine and sweet

On land and sea.

BIG FISH LAKE SCHOOL

District No. 1494

Foisy, Alberta, Canada

1919

MISS ELLA LANDRY, Teacher

PUPILS

Rolls Austin
Aurora Blanchette
Cyprien Foisy
Jumina Foisy
Louisa Foisy
Merilda Foisy
Prosper Foisy
Philias Gauthier
Irene Guertin
Lula Guertin
Jensie Guertin
Eva Hanley
George Hanley
Mary Hanley
Phillippe Hanley
Alice Paradis
Corinne Paradis
Felix Paradis

Florence Paradis
Mary Paradis
Therese Paradis
Ida Pigeau
Mathilda Pigeau
Alice Robinson
George Robinson
Jean Robinson
Laurent Robinson
Mary Robinson
Charlie Saunders
Dougall Saunders
Lawrence Saunders
Vivian Saunders
Annes Smith
Herbert Wilkinson
Jack Wilkinson

School Board

Mr. Aime Lafond

Mr. Alphonse Pigeau

Mr. Jos. Robinson, Sec.—Treas.

Mr. X. Crispo, B. A., Inspector of Schools &
Official Trustee



Miss Ella Landry
(teacher)

On August 8, 1907, school opened with Miss Blanche Lafond (Mrs. Johnny Brosseau) the first teacher at Big Fish Lake School.

This was a one classroom school, where grades 1-8 were taught, sometimes accommodating 45-50 students. Besides the regular reading, writing and arithmetic, French and religion were also taught.

On September 16, 1915 James Cooper Butchart was appointed Official Trustee.

On June 11, 1919 X.P. Crispo of St. Paul des Metis was appointed Trustee.

On September 7, 1939 the Big Fish Lake School district No. 1494 was included into Subdivision No. 1 of St. Paul school Division No. 45.

On July 7, 1941 the name of Big Fish Lake School was changed to Foisy School district No. 1494.

On October 28, 1946 the school building burned down, cause of fire unknown. A new school building was erected on the same site and by January 1947, classes resumed.

In June of 1950, after 43 years of operation, Foisy School closed its doors permanently. Mrs. Mary Grekul was the last teacher. The students were transferred to Lafond School, where grades 1-12 were taught.



Miss Della MacDonald taught at Big Fish Lake School in the 1920's.

In June, 1952 the removal of school buildings from the Foisy School District No. 1494 to the Tulliby Lake School District No. 3758 was given approval. The school land was then returned to the NW.-27-56-11-4, in accordance to the terms of agreement with Mr. Johnson. The owner of this land at the time was Hormidas Paradis.

In November of 1953 the following lands were transferred from the Champlain School District No. 1776 to the Foisy School District No. 1494: the East half of Section 31, in Township 56, Range 11, West of the Fourth Meridian.

On December 29, 1954 the following lands were transferred from the Foisy School District No. 1494 to the Champlain School District No. 1776: the West half of Section 19, 30 and 31 in Township 56, Range 11, the East half of Section 36, in Township 56, Range 11, and West half of Section 6 in Township 57, Range 11, all West of the Fourth Meridian.



The 1940's Ball Team of Big Fish Lake School. Back row: L.-R. Nick Kruse, Julien Foisy, Clara Chrapko, Andy Snihur, Richard Foisy, Front row: Ed Snihur, Metro Chornohus, Metro Chrapko, Donald Ternovoy.

On December 23, 1954 the Foisy School District No. 1494 was resubdivided into subdivision No. 3 of the St. Paul School District No. 45.

On September 19, 1961 the Foisy School District No. 1494 was incorporated into the County of St. Paul No. 19.



Class of 1940. Big Fish Lake (Foisy) School. Back row: L.-R. Aime Foisy, Orest Sharun, Ernest Foisy, Clara Chrapko, Rolande Foisy. Second row: Gordon Sharun, Nick Kruse, Donald Ternovoy, Julien Foisy, Richard Foisy, Noella Foisy, Jeannette Foisy, June Marsh, Lucille Foisy.

Third row: Hubert Foisy, Victor Foisy, Sophie Koslow, Metro Chrapko, Irene Robinson, Rita Foisy, May Paradis, Juliette Foisy, Anna Foisy, Alma Robinson, Marge Marsh, Myrtle Marsh. Seated: Felix Foisy, Clifford Marsh, ———, Nettie Kruse, Henry Foisy.

Records of Teachers before 1930 were not available but by reminiscing with old timers we managed to recall a few.

Blanche Lafond (Brosseau)	1907
Mrs. Percy Hutcheson	1915
Mr. Tremblay	?
Miss Ella Landry (Demers)	1919
Della MacDonald	1920
Marie Anna Roy	1926
Eileen Whitworth	1930

Alice I Elli	1931
Henriette Charbonneau	1932
Lucille Gagne (Lemaire)	1934-1938
Lucia Brosseau (Robinson)	1938-1941
Alice Lamoureux (Mailloux)	1941-1942
Louis Voghell	1942
Albert E. Hohol	1943 — school closed from February 29 - May 25 — due to lack of teachers.
Morris John McCallum	1943 — taught July 9 - August 31, 1944 to make up for lost time.
Marie Anne Tardif (Marchand)	1944
Mrs. Anne Paradis	1945
Albert E. Hohol	1946
Mrs. Alice Melnyk	1947
Mrs. Mary Gredul	1948-1950 then school closed.

FOISY DISTRICT HISTORY FOISY STORES AND POST OFFICE

by Aime and Gabrielle Foisy

In the early 1900's when the first settlers came to the Foisy district, stores were few and far apart. The nearest store was located at Brosseau.



Taken 1981. Foisy Store presently owned by Lawrence and Louise Bodnar.

In 1905, Mr. Louis Clark homesteaded the SW-35-56-11-4 on which he later built and operated the first store in the Foisy district. Mrs. Dora Paradis (nee Foisy) who lived in the district recalls her parents and brothers buying trapping supplies, groceries and Christmas decorations there.

A few years later, Mr. Clark moved to the east side of the Big Lake leaving the district without the conveniences of a store.

In 1918, Aladin Foisy started building a store on the NE. corner of section 21-56-11-4 and opened for business in 1919. That same year the Foisy Post Office was assigned to Aladin, becoming the first Postmaster in the district.



Foisy Store built in 1918 by Aladin Foisy.

In the late 1940's, the Poloways, who were farming in the district, built a grocery store on the SW-27-56-11-4 neighboring the Aladin Foisy store. After a few years this store burned down and was never rebuilt. The Aladin Foisy family successfully operated their business until 1942. They then sold it to Mr. and Mrs. Adrien Robinson.

Mr. Robinson then felt the need of a more spacious building to accommodate the increasing business. In approximately 1944 a new building was constructed along-side the old one, providing more conveniences to their customers. They managed the store and Post Office until the latter part of 1950. Mr. and Mrs. Bill Skakun then bought the business and operated it for about a year and a half, then sold it to Mr. and Mrs. Laurent Brault in 1951.

In 1954, highway 36 was built by-passing Foisy Store. Mr. Laurent Brault bought an acreage from Herve Malo on the SW. corner of section 4-57-11-4 and moved the store during the summer of 1956. It was now located two miles north and one mile west from the original location.

Mr. Laurent Brault was then employed at the Two Hills Chemical Plant while Mrs. Brault looked after the Store and Post Office.

In July 1970, the Braults sold their business to Philias Plamondon. A few years later he sold to Mr. and Mrs. Romeo Gascon. In 1975 Mr. and Mrs.



Louise Bodnar sorting mail in Foisy Post Office, March 1981.



Taken in the early 1920's, Aladin Foisy in his store.

Hubert Foisy bought this business and operated it for approximately a year.

In February 1976, Foisy Post Office was assigned to Mrs. Rose Bodnar, she was Postmistress until the month of May in the same year.

On May 1, 1976 Foisy Store and Post Office was purchased by Lawrence and Louise Bodnar. They are successfully managing it in 1981.

Louise is the ninth Postmistress of Foisy in its 62 years of existence.

FOISY DISTRICT HISTORY ESKOW BEACH

In the early 1930's, John Eskow developed a beach on his farm, the SW.-26-56-11-4 on the west side of Big Fish Lake, now known as Lac Sante. This place is presently owned by Russel Paziuk who is in the process of developing it.

The beach provided an excellent place for picnics, swimming and also a safe place for children to wade. Students from Foisy School often enjoyed these facilities for their year-end picnics.

In 1933 a dance hall was erected and named Eskow Beach Dance Pavilion. Many weddings and dances were held there. Herve Malo and Bernadette Brault and Irene Malo and Laurent Brault, who



Taken 1933, Foisy, Alberta. Eskow Beach Dance Pavilion.



Corrals built in 1934 at Eskow Beach.



Taken 1934, Stampede at Eskow Beach.



Taken 1934, Stampede Officials and Clowns.

were married in a double wedding ceremony, had their wedding dance at Eskow Beach Pavilion, where the large crowd was nicely accommodated. I, (Miss) Therese Belisle (Theroux) attended this wedding dance as my first outing in the district and had a very enjoyable time.

FOISY DISTRICT HISTORY FOISY BALL TEAM

by Aime Foisy

In the early 1920's the young men of the Foisy District formed a ball team. They were named the Foisy Ball Club. They competed in tournaments at Brosseau, St. Paul, Saddle Lake etc., often coming home victorious. They practised in a clearing on



Taken 1920. The Foisy Ball Team. Standing L.-R. Gilbert Foisy, Gaspard Foisy, Wilfred Foisy, Frank Plouffe(pitcher), Païement Gagnon. Sitting: Eugene Foisy, Cyprien Foisy, Prosper Foisy, Jules Therrien.

Wilfred Foisy's land near the lake. Local residents cheered them on and were very proud of their ball team.



Mrs. Gustave Cote unearthed some big rocks on his land, one of which is shown here taken in 1958.

OLD CARS



Mr. Euchariste Tremblay and his friend Eugene Lamoureux, touring the country, looking for homesteads.



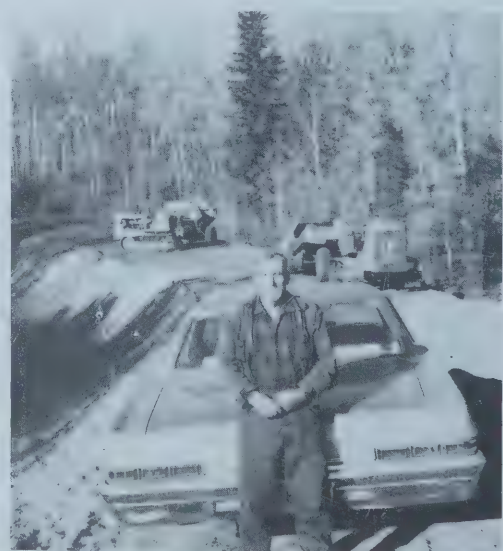
"THE END OF THE ROAD" Albert Desaulniers, left and friend. M. Lepage



Mr. and Mrs. Napoleon Auclair, in the back Mrs. Carise Tremblay. This picture was taken on the corner of 66 St. on the Fort Trail in front of Auclair's property, across from the Transit Hotel which is still there.



Hubert Lavoie, Blanche Parkinson, Hector Fraser, Mr. and Mrs. Carise Tremblay, Mrs. Ovila Jean, Alphonse Lavoie, Albert Tremblay, Basile Jean, Seated: Mrs. Basile Jean, In the car Mrs. Hector Fraser. Kneeling: Diana Lavoie. The Frasers, Elzear, Hector, Leon and Real, homesteaded in the S.E. corner of the Cartier District S.W. of 3 mile lake.



Mike Onyschuk watching the road being built North of the farm yard. They removed the bridge and put in a culvert in October 7th, 1966.

BEELA
HENLEY
LAC BELLEVUE
LAC CANARD
LAKE ELIZA
MANY LAKES
STONEY LAKE



A. H. GIBSON
BARRISTER, SOLICITOR, NOTARY PUBLIC
FORT SASKATCHEWAN, ALBERTA
CANADA

July 15th., 1927.

Mr. Ashworth,
near ferry Tp. 55, R. 8,
Lake Eliza P.O., Alberta.

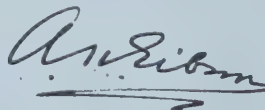
Dear Sir,

I have pleasure in enclosing you herewith prints from the snapshots taken by Const. Buchanan when he was at the river with me on June 15th. I meant to send these before but put it off till a more convenient season. You were interested I am sure to know that we succeeded in locating the site of the old post on the island. Two of the snapshots show chimneys or rather chimney bases which have not altogether fallen down. The site is close to the north shore of the island, and about three-quarters of the way to the west end or head of it. You may not see them until you are very close as the underbrush is thick. I append a sketch showing the approximate location.

This post was built in 1801 by a man named Decoigne. Angus Shaw had built Fort George (6 mi. E. of Elk Pt.) in 1792, and in 1801 Duncan McGillivray who was then in charge at Ft. George decided to build on this island for the advantage of trade, and sent Decoigne who built this post. It is referred to as the Island Fort, and also Fort de l'isle.

I beg to thank you again for your kindness when we called at your place, and I hope that Mrs. Ashworth's health continues to improve. With kindest regards to your brother and yourself, believe me,

Yours sincerely,



letter from A.H. Gibson to T.C. Ashworth dated 1927

FORT DE L'ISLE

by Russ Paziuk

To understand what our earliest white pioneer farmer saw upon his arrival to the Elk Point, Lac Bellevue, and Lafond communities, one must firstly examine the ways of the earlier people living there. The North Saskatchewan River, like most water tributaries, was a vital source of transportation and because of the nature of the earlier inhabitants a livelihood was derived of the land in its natural state, therefore minimal terrain disturbances or land development occurred before the 1900's.

Historically, the Cree Indians occupied these areas trading their beaver pelts at Fort George as early as 1795. However, Anthony Hendleys Journals of 1810-11 indicate that the Sarcee (Athabaskan speakers) and formerly part of the Beaver Indians further North about the Peace River, who had formerly lived North of the Saskatchewan River had moved South to occupy the Beaver Hills, just Southeast of Edmonton. According to Dion (1979) a Cree Indian, the Cree held one annual communal bison hunt each spring when they crossed the North Saskatchewan River near modern Brosseau to hunt the large herds of bison grazing in the area around modern Hairy Hill.

The first trading post in the area was built by Angus Shaw for the North West Company on Moose Lake in 1789. Shortly thereafter James Finlay built Fort de L'Isle or Pine Island Fort on the east bank of the island on the North Saskatchewan River nearest the T.C. Ashworth homestead. It appears that Fort de L'Isle existed only about five years (1798 - 1804) and was absorbed by the North West Company to eliminate competition in the fur trade.

As late as the 1930's, evidence of structural existence remained with present day local residents confirming their salvaging metal (angle iron) for their use



This cairn now stands where Fort De L'Isle was once located



Island on the North Saskatchewan where the fort was located.

from the Fort site. One viewing the fort site today still finds, what archeologists think were chimney bases. These neatly piled flat racks that formed these chimney bases are virtually undisturbed, showing only signs of the nature's elements. The two holes that presumably were cellars have caved over the years, but are very much in evidence today.

Today stands a cairn on the exact site of Fort de L'Isle, funded by the Province of Alberta and installed sometime before the 27th, Dec. 1960. The cairn is a stone piece standing about four feet high and two feet at the base. A photograph is submitted for your viewing as well as letters written to T.C. Ashworth dating back to 1927, discussing the installation of this cairn.

Fort George preceded the Moose Lake Post in 1792, the same year that the Hudson Bay Company built Buckingham house. Both of the latter forts were situated on the North bank of the North Saskatchewan River, south of modern Elk Point. Our earliest knowledge of this area comes from the journals of Duncan M'Gillivray who was in charge of Fort George in the winter of 1794-95. He commented on the large herds of bison and deer and the large numbers of moose in the Elk Point, Bellevue areas.

In an attempt to sendentize the natives Father Lacombe opened a mission near St. Paul in 1866. In 1896 Father Therien opened the St. Paul de Metis Reserve occupying some four townships of land and attempted to introduce an agricultural way of life to the native occupants. One of these townships was 57, Range 9 W4. The project failed and the land was soon taken over by the white settlers.

The site of Two Hills was recorded in the historic literature as early as 1808 by Henry who commented on resting in that vicinity for an hour.

The village was originally known as Pozerville, after Henry Pozer, who settled in the area in 1897 and opened a post office there in 1906. The office was closed shortly after and when it reopened in 1908, it was known as Two Hills (Les Deux Grosse Butte).

THE METIS — FIRST SETTLERS IN TOWNSHIP 57 AND 58 RANGE 9 AND 10

by Russell Paziuk

The area immediately south and west of the St. Paul townsite has a very interesting history. The establishment of Father Lacombe's mission on the north bank of the Saskatchewan River, the present site of Brosseau, was the earliest attempt to introduce farming and settlement into this area. This dates back to 1866, when Father Lacombe decided on a plan which would bring the Indian People to him at a selected location, instead of him following the different tribes all over the prairies in search of buffalo which they depended upon for their food.

But the undertaking was not successful, perhaps due in part to the reluctance of the Metis to accept the ties of the new civilization. By 1874 the mission was abandoned, but attempts to spread civilization continued over the next two decades.

At the time the Indian Reservation had been established by the Government in 1875, the Metis had refused to be classified as Indians, preferring to take up lands as the white settlers did, but by temperament they were unadapted to farming. Fur traders and adventurers began to penetrate this part of the country. Father Lacombe who had a deep attachment for the Metis and visited them in their encampments scattered over a large territory, saw that their contact with the newcomers was becoming a moral danger.

Realizing the serious situation these people would be subjected to by the newcomers, Father Lacombe conceived a plan that would grant some land in which the Metis could be gathered in a colony of their own, and under the paternal direction of their priests, be trained to regular work and industry. His plan received the sanction of the Governor-General in Council and two townships (57 and 58 both of ranges 9 and 10) were placed at the disposal of the colony for a period of 21 years. With the formation of a syndicate, the Metis were offered 80 acres for nominal fee. The Government furthered the colony's cause by contributing a cash sum of \$2,000.00

In 1896, under the guidance of Father Adeodat Therien, the colony of St. Paul was declared officially open. That same year survey began to have this land subdivided into 80 acre parcels. A mission was built and served the colony in many ways. It would be used as a chapel, school house, as well as a residence for the Brothers and Fathers.

Only three Metis families were at the mission site upon Father Therien's arrival. They were Simon Marron (Dejarlais), Gabriel Cardinal, and Pierre Okones.

By the end of 1898 the population of the colony grew to 32 families. Even though much effort, encouragement and money was spent to succeed in this project, on the whole the Metis still manifested little enthusiasm for the new way of life, that of farming.

Over the next decade, the Fathers who had expended their best energies to the success of the project, were forced with the painful realization that the Metis had no ambition and in no way responded to their ingenuity and devotion. At different times some had abandoned the colony to roam the woods or moved elsewhere to enjoy freedom. The Metis themselves began to realize it was in the best interest to open the mission to other settlers, so having secured the approval of the original population, Father Therien asked the government authorities to open for homesteading that land that was granted to the colony. This came into effect on April 10, 1909.

As to the Metis, some profited by the right given them to take homesteads. Those who wanted to stay

on the reserve were given clear title to their 80 acres, with the privilege to sell if they wished.

In compensation for the heavy expenses that had been incurred for the promoting of the original scheme, the diocese of St. Albert received four sections, which was set aside before entry could be made by outsiders. Two of these sections were later transferred to the Oblate in recognition of their devoted service to the colony.

SURVEY OF OUR LAND

by Russell Paziuk

The Dominion of Canada was created by the B.N.A. Act of 1867 and extended westerly to the Manitoba/Ontario boundary. Land west of this boundary and its vast territory was owned by the Hudson Bay Co. This 7,000,000 acres called Rupert's Land was purchased by Canada in 1869 from the Hudson Bay Co. for 300,000 pounds sterling. With the passing of the Homestead Act in 1871, Canadian ownership of this vast land necessitated surveying and settlement in the west was at its infancy.

The first meridian became the north/south line east of Winnipeg. The easterly boundary of Alberta soon became the fourth meridian. Townships were established to run east and west beginning at the international boarder with number 1 at the border, land continuing north 2, 3, 4, 5, etc. Ranges are those lines running north and south and begin at the meridian. From this point, they start as number one, two, etc. running west. Being that a compass points eighteen degrees east of north, survey lines north and south were corrected every twenty-four miles and these corrected lines became correction lines.

Six hundred and forty (640) acres would make up a township. Each township became six square miles and contained thirty-six sections. The one mile square sections established had a 66 foot road allowance. The north/south roads were one mile apart and the east/west roads were distanced at 2 miles.

Reserved as school lands were sections 11 and 29 of every township. Although no land north of the North Saskatchewan was granted the Hudson Bay Co. it did however, acquire section 8 and 3 quarters of 26 south of the North Saskatchewan River. The Canadian Pacific Railway acquired all odd numbered sections as part of a tax free grant offered by the Canadian Government for that company's building of the railway through Western Canada. All even numbered sections became available as homestead land in 1909.

Mr. C.A. Magrath D.R.S. first started surveying in this vast land sometime in 1884 and with the help of a T.W. Chalmers, C.L.S. completed the initial survey (township) on October 31st, 1896. Homesteading began after J.J. Dalton, J.B. Saint Cyr, T.S. Nash, and M.W. Hopkins surveyed the townships into sections and quarters. This latter survey was commenced and

completed during the years 1903 and 1904 respectively.

The unit of measurement in surveying was the Gunters Chain consisting of 100 links each 7.93 inches long. The 66' length of the surveying chain explains why the rural roads are that width. Present day usage of the steel band, much easier to manipulate, eliminated the use of the steel chain.

Our northern area, with its numerous lakes, swamps, rivers and a heavily wooded terrain necessitated the survey people to cut lines 8 to 12 feet wide/accessibility. This practice still exists in our northern wooded regions thus creating greater costs to survey than in the open plain regions of our country.

Three foot long, round iron stakes squared at the top identified the sections. These stakes with Roman numerals at the top of the stake were placed at the northeast corner of every section. Four holes, eight feet apart were dug at half mile intervals identified the quarter sections.

For purposes of producing maps showing depressions and elevations, lakes and water courses, topographical surveying commenced after 1905 and continued to about 1920.

ST. MICHAELS CEMETERY

by Anne Harris — WM Tymofichuk

Due to some missing death registers, the submitted list may be incomplete. Furthermore the names submitted were published below exactly as they were entered.

DATE	NAME	SEX	DISTRICT
July 12, 1918	Anny Boratynec	F	Lake Eliza
Aug 26, 1918	Steve Paziuk	M	Lake Eliza
Oct 23, 1918	Wyka Bairok	F	Lake Eliza
Feb 15, 1919	Yulia Halina	F	Lake Eliza
May 3, 1919	Stefanca Paziuk	F	Lake Eliza
Jan 7, 1920	Steve Fackes	M	Lake Eliza
Jan 22, 1920	Yustyna Zahorodna	F	Lake Eliza
April 13, 1920	Peter Makowski	M	Lake Eliza
May 15, 1920	Stefka Paziuk	F	Lake Eliza
Dec 31, 1920	Kostansia Yedlenski	F	Lac Canard
_____ 1920	Eva Yuschyshyn	F	Lake Eliza
July 15, 1921	Pedro Fakas	M	Lake Eliza
Nov 5, 1921	Andrew Yuschyshyn	M	Lake Eliza
Jan 1923	Elsie Onyszczuk	F	Lac Bellevue
Dec 3, 1923	Mary Julia Zacharuk	F	Lac Bellevue
_____ 1923	Paul Makowski	M	Lac Bellevue
May 14, 1924	Joe Yuschychyn	M	Lake Eliza
Oct 24, 1924	Steve Paziuk	M	Lac Bellevue
Jan 9, 1925	Nick Faskas	M	Lac Bellevue
March 7, 1925	Billy Zacharko	M	Lac Bellevue
March 28, 1925	Mike Zacharko	M	Lac Bellevue
June 13, 1925	Stapha Gadowski	F	Lac Bellevue
July 5, 1925	Rose Zacharuk	F	Lac Bellevue
July 28, 1925	Andrew Skakun	M	Lac Bellevue
_____ 1925	Annie F. Hancharuk	F	Lac Bellevue
Feb. 1926	Olga Makowecki	F	Lac Bellevue
May 23, 1926	Jesia Gadowski	F	Lac Bellevue
_____ 1926	Lena Tymko	F	Lac Bellevue

March 1928	Mary Eskow	F	Lac Bellevue	_____ 1958	Rosalie Tymko	F	St. Paul
_____ 1928	Julia Hancheruk	F	Lac Bellevue	July 8, 1958	Rosalie Kobitowich	F	St. Paul
Nov 21, 1928	Peter Tymko	M	Lac Bellevue	July 11, 1958	Peroska Gadowsky	F	St. Paul
_____ 1929	Euphrosenia Hancheruk	F	Lac Bellevue	April 30, 1959	Orest Bortynec	M	Lake Eliza
March 7, 1929	Wasył Eskow	M	Lac Bellevue	June 1, 1959	John Burak	M	Glendon
June 9, 1933	F. Worabec	M	Lac Bellevue	Sept 16, 1959	Blain Lakusta	M	St. Paul
June 10, 1933	Ernest Omilion Taschuk	M	Lac Bellevue	Dec 3, 1959	Dymtra Sikorski	M	Myrnam
Oct 15, 1933	John Lasychuk	M	Lake Eliza	April 6, 1960	John Krys	M	Lac Bellevue
May 29, 1934	Kate Petruk	F	Lac Bellevue	Oct 30, 1960	Annie Burak	F	Therien
June 20, 1934	Annie Berezanski	F	Lac Bellevue	Jan 16, 1960	Florence Tymofichuk	F	Lac Bellevue
June 28, 1934	Michael Lasychuk	M	Lake Eliza	Dec 30, 1961	Annie Polowada	F	Lake Eliza
July 6, 1934	Zelman Zenkow	M	Lac Bellevue	Feb 24, 1961	Mike Zacharuk	M	St. Paul
Feb 10, 1935	Frances Kotowich	F	St. Paul	Jan 6, 1962	Annie Gadowski	F	Lac Bellevue
April 8, 1935	Tony Walter Kostyniuk	M	Lac Bellevue	_____ 1962	John Markousky	M	St. Paul
June 9, 1935	Dymetro Prysunka	M	Lac Bellevue	Jan 19, 1962	John Yuschyshyn	M	Lac Bellevue
July 28, 1935	Mary Gadowski	F	Lac Bellevue	Feb 7, 1963	Mary Berezanski	F	Vegreville
Nov 15, 1935	Victoria Melion	F	Lac Bellevue	April 15, 1963	Mike Lukenchuk	M	St. Paul
Feb 11, 1936	Steve Tymko	M	Lac Bellevue	May 19, 1963	John Adameczuk	M	St. Paul
July 13, 1936	Annie Marynovich	F	Lac Bellevue	Sept 16, 1963	Entonia Makawecki	F	St. Paul
Sept 10, 1936	Peter Losata	M	Lac Bellevue	June 15, 1964	Harry Eskow	M	St. Paul
March 18, 1937	Mary Fagas	F	Lac Bellevue	June 4, 1965	Julian Berezanski	M	Vegreville
June 10, 1937	Harry Fodchuk	M	Lac Bellevue	July 5, 1966	Joseph Gadowski	M	Elk Point
June 20, 1937	John Tymofichuk	M	Lake Eliza	Aug 22, 1966	William Worobec	M	Edmonton
Nov 10, 1937	Peter Thally	M	St. Paul	Oct 23, 1966	Tymko Paley	M	Lac Bellevue
Jan 25, 1939	Ireporit Worobec	F	Lac Bellevue	Aug 30, 1967	John Worobec	M	Lac Bellevue
March 16, 1939	Nicholas Fagas	M	Lac Bellevue	May 9, 1968	Eudokia Worobec	F	Myrnam
Dec 30, 1939	Paronka Halina	F	Lake Eliza	Aug 9, 1968	John Yaremko	M	St. Paul
July 11, 1939	Wasył Hawryluk	M	Lake Eliza	Feb 26, 1969	Helen Tymofichuk	F	St. Paul
June 30, 1940	Joseph Adam Gill	M	Lac Bellevue	Oct 13, 1969	Michael Gadowski	M	St. Paul
Aug 14, 1940	Sophia Krys	F	Lac Bellevue	March 30, 1970	Eva Paley	F	Myrnam
Oct 17, 1940	Andro Gadowski	M	Lac Bellevue	Dec 21, 1970	Ignace Gadowski	M	St. Paul
Dec 5, 1940	Sofat Tymko	M	Lac Bellevue	Feb 27, 1971	Wasył Losota	M	St. Paul
March 29, 1941	Don Zahorodny	M	Lac Bellevue	Aug 17, 1971	Roslie Pankew	F	St. Paul
Oct 25, 1941	John Melynychuk	M	Lake Eliza	Feb 21, 1973	Peter Tymofichuk	M	St. Paul
March 10, 1942	John Krankowski	M	Lac Bellevue	March 14, 1973	Anne Krys	F	Vermilion
Aug 31, 1942	Annie Sadowski	F	Lake Eliza	Oct 29, 1973	Helina Burak	F	Therien
Dec 28, 1942	Iris Tymofichuk	F	Lake Eliza	Jan 24, 1974	Katie Yuschyshyn	F	St. Paul
Aug 3, 1944	Nick Lasichuk	M	Lake Eliza	Dec 4, 1975	Marie Krankowski	F	St. Paul
May 21, 1945	Wm Sharun	M	Lake Eliza	Aug 31, 1976	William Denega	M	St. Paul
July 26, 1945	Dan Halina	M	Lake Eliza	Oct 7, 1976	William Zacharuk	M	Myrnam
Dec 26, 1945	Lorraine Hawreluk	F	Lac Bellevue	Sept 26, 1977	John Lekenchuk	M	St. Paul
Jan 27, 1946	Harry Worobec	M	Lac Bellevue	Jan 17, 1978	William F. Krankowski	M	St. Paul
Sept 28, 1946	Lawrence Krankowski	M	Lake Eliza	Feb 13, 1978	William Myshaniuk	M	St. Paul
Jan 14, 1947	Mike Makowski	M	St. Paul	May 24, 1980	Ronald Frank Linkewich	M	St. Paul
Aug 3, 1947	Tassy Paziuk	F	Myrnam	Oct 15, 1980	Peter Hawreluk	M	Myrnam
April 22, 1948	Antonia Gadowski	F	St. Paul	Jan 8, 1981	Julia Bortynec	F	St. Paul
Jan 18, 1949	Frank Krankowsky	M	Lake Eliza				
May 2, 1949	Alex Petruk	M	Lac Bellevue				
June 15, 1949	Fred Hawryluk	M	Myrnam				
Aug 18, 1949	William Mychaluk	M	Lake Eliza				
Oct 6, 1949	Linda Jane Wannebko	F	Lac Bellevue				
March 3, 1950	Fanny Biwege	F	Lac Bellevue				
May 13, 1950	Mike Krankowski	M	Lake Eliza				
Sept 28, 1951	Ludwiga Kish	F	Lake Eliza				
Nov 28, 1951	Linda Mary Fodchuk	F	Lac Bellevue				
Jan 22, 1952	Mary Sereda	F	Lac Bellevue				
Feb 18, 1952	Sophia Petruk	F	Lac Bellevue				
April 27, 1952	Paraska Markouski	F	Lake Eliza				
June 11, 1952	Apoloniga Gadowski	F	Lac Bellevue				
July 2, 1952	Nancy Gadowski	F	Lac Bellevue				
Jan 7, 1953	Annie Tymchuk	F	Lac Bellevue				
Feb 9, 1953	George Prodaniuk	M	St. Paul				
June 3, 1953	Krenka Demchuk	F	Lake Eliza				
Sept 1, 1953	Nick Kish	M	Lake Eliza				
Dec 21, 1953	Donald David McMillion	M	Myrnam				
Missing							
April 22, 1955	Hopolite Krissa	M	Lac Bellevue				
Sept 2, 1956	Mike Yuschyshyn	M	Camrose				
_____ 1956	Anna Denega	F	Lac Bellevue				
May 18, 1957	Senko Burak	M	Glendon				
Nov 22, 1957	Susan Krankowsky	F	Lac Bellevue				

HOMESTEAD REGISTER

by Russell Paziuk

Shown above are two "cuts" from the Township General Register, courtesy of the Archives, Edmonton. Dates our fathers and forefathers filed for their homestead land is indicated in this register. Because of its size, and the large community, research was done on, only several cuts are being submitted for your viewing.

I would like to draw your attention to the number of people who at one time or other filed a homestead application for a single quarter of land. We assume that in those cases where a quarter section was cancelled and reregistered so frequently occurred because of several reasons. One, the applicant was required to live on his or her homestead for at least six months of the year, for three years, bring 30 acres under cultivation and build a house. If this require-



The first municipal council of the enlarged M.D. of St. Paul 1940?

L-R: Joe Makowecki, Herman Dupre, Joe Doucet (Assessor) Ted Therien (Ass't. Sec. Treas.) Harlan Rice (Sec. Treas.) Felix Calliou (Visitor) Ernest Belzil, Mrs. Rice, Oscar Holthe

ing. This left the local farmer to his own resources as far as roads were concerned and all regulations controlling the everyday activities were of a Provincial nature and not always adaptable to a certain area.

As farms developed and more residents moved into the area the need of organizing a local government became more evident by the petty disputes that the local judge or magistrate had to settle in court. Also a form of taxation had to take place if any roads or bridges were to ever be constructed.

At a general election of local residents at the Brunelle Hall on December 14, 1914, a municipal council was elected to represent the local farmers to the Provincial Minister of Municipal Affairs with regards to the organizing of a Municipal District for the area closest to St. Paul.

The approval was given by the minister. The first meeting of the Rural Municipality of Laurier #543 was called for January 4, 1915, to be held in the Brunelle Hall at two o'clock in the afternoon.

Mr. James Brady was elected reeve, Mr. Oscar Poirier deputy reeve, Mr. Edward Rousseau was appointed secretary treasurer and the remaining members of council were Mr. Nelson Cleven, Mr. F.S. Basterash, J.H. Earl and Mr. Emery Labrie. Mr. Edouard Labrie was appointed assessor and Mr. Clovis Therrien was the auditor.

Most of the minutes of this meeting are comprised of suggestions on the taxation of farm lands in the area as well as the proposed control of gophers.

During the month of January an office and private room were rented in the Poitras Block to carry on the affairs of the municipality. The rent for both was set at \$5.00 per month.

The secretary's wages were set at \$50.00 per month and the assessor's at \$200.00 per year. The

council was to be remunerated by what the Municipal Act stipulated at the time.

The minutes of the first few years have entries pertaining to the control and eradication of the gopher which seems to have caused a lot of worry to the local farmers. The council voted that \$200.00 of its first loan go to the purchase of gopher poison.

A safe was purchased from Mr. Oscar Savard for \$100.00. Eight chairs to be used for meeting purposes were to be purchased for the "cheapest possible price". These were the instructions given to the secretary treasurer.

During the general discussion of local important business, many of the minutes show the concern by the M.D. for rail service from St. Paul to Edmonton in order to make the local delivery of farm products possible. Some delegations were formed to deliver the M.D. demands to the Provincial authorities.

One entry tells us that the newly elected council had approached the St. Paul branch of the Banque d' Horchelaga for a \$2000.00 loan and all elected councillors were requested to personally co-sign the note. This was turned down by all of them and the problem of financing was referred back to the Provincial Government.

An order was placed on May 4, 1915, with Roberge and Lavigne for the following road equipment:

6 Road plows "not to exceed 12' " @ \$38.00.

24 Hand controlled scrapers 7 cu. ft. @ \$8.00

All were to be F.O.B. Vegreville and terms were set at one third cash and balance to be paid November 1, 1915.

A list of tools purchased from the St. Paul Mercantile and Brosseau and Son read:

2 Dozen round shovels

6 12 lb. crowbars

1 Dozen clay picks

2 Dozen 16 ft. logging chains to be loaned out for road construction to the local farmers.

The rate of pay in lieu of taxes was set at \$4.00 per ten-hour day for team and operator. Laborers were to be paid \$2.00 per day and a foreman to be paid \$2.50 per day. All road work was to be approved by a committee of council before commencing work and would not exceed 70% of the total taxes with the balance to be paid in cash.

The municipality was very short of funds as was everyone else. Starting off with such an enormous task of trying to provide a few services to the residents and having no money and very little borrowing power must have been very frustrating.

To complicate matters more an act of Government exempted all soldiers' land from taxation for the period from 1914 to 1919 or until their return from the war. This left a large amount of land not taxable.

There was a lot of controversy by the councillors as to which method of tax collection would be most effective. The work on the roads left the operation with no funds for the maintenance of its office and one man staff and there were also no funds for the purchase of road building equipment needed if the farmers were to work off their taxes.

A motion in 1915, read to the effect that not more than \$3.00 and not less than \$1.75 would be paid in cash on taxes and the balance to be worked off on road repairs by all ratepayers, who so desire.

One motion of interest moved by Mr. O. Poirier in the fall of 1915 read:

"Whereas the expense of building and maintaining roads under modern conditions is a considerable tax on the community and,

Whereas the cost of land, even to the homesteader, is considerably in excess of the capitalized value of the rents charged by the Government of Canada and,

Whereas the true interest of the community is in the welfare of the whole of the settlers.

Therefore be it resolved that we, the Council of Rural Municipality of Laurier No. 543, do respectfully petition the Government of Alberta to amend the Municipal and L.I.D. acts to provide for lands under grazing lease or permit from the Government of Canada, to be subject to the same tax as other lands."

A copy of this motion was to be sent to the Premier of Alberta, Hon. M. Sifton and to Hon. P.E. Lessard M.P.P. for St. Paul riding.

As I read the old minutes I could sympathize with the council for being in the financial position they were in and yet admire their compassion for their fellow farmers. This would show up in their different attitude towards tax collection such as the following:

"The secretary is authorized to write to the Department of Municipal Affairs to know if the council had the power, on account of the poverty of rate payers, to exempt them from the Seizure to pay their arrears of taxes."

The Municipal District was also made responsible at that time to collect the school tax and redistribute the monies to each and every school district where the tax had been levied. The biggest problem was that the farmers could not afford to pay taxes so many of the schools operated for a short period in the summer when young teachers, new from the university, were happy to teach for their room and board.

Again in 1916 we read that council authorized the secretary to issue by mail Distress Notices to collect the school taxes for the previous years and to proceed according to the law. Mr. W. Beaudry, Barrister, was authorized to assist the secretary and he was also retained as legal advisor for the Municipality.

The business of the Municipal District was being done with the welfare of the homesteaders in mind at all times and it would seem that there were almost no major conflicts, except for the lack of funds. Negotiating loans from the local bank must have taxed everyone's tempers at times because not one councillor was willing to put his name to a note backing the loan applied for. This caused the most controversies.

The largest expenditure in 1916 was for the sum of \$447.00 payable to the St. Paul Drug Store for the supply of gopher poison. There are numerous entries of payments to local doctors for treatment of residents of the District. Most of these are for \$3.50 which would indicate the cost of a house call. Distance is never mentioned except that a few cases would indicate that travelling was for the doctor's benefit of the fresh air, as no payments were made for that case.

In 1917 the council of the M.D. of Laurier was informed by Edmonton that all school districts within its boundaries were removed from their jurisdiction for the years 1917, 1918 and 1919 as requested by petition the previous year.

This move was approved by the new council elected in December of 1916, of which Mr. James Brady had been replaced by the election of Mr. J.A. Fortin of St. Paul.

At this time the M.D. of Laurier was comprised of twelve townships starting north of town at the correction line, going south to the Sask. River, east to Elk Point and one mile west of the town of St. Paul des Metis. There was some mention of the outlying areas being represented by their own organized municipalities at the time and some mention of change of boundaries to facilitate road plans.

All through the years of early St. Paul farm development, the gopher seemed to have been an

uncontrollable pest, of which the council was very much concerned to rid the area.

The continuous large purchases of poison to supply to farmers who were compelled by the law to place it on their property can only indicate the large population of these critters.

To attract the younger generation into the action of ridding the farms of these animals the council enacted a bounty system of payment which was 1¢ per head delivered during the months of April and May and ½¢ for those delivered in July and August.

The earlier higher bounty was to destroy the pregnant female gophers before they gave birth to the large litters they normally brought forth each spring, as this would drastically reduce the population of the pest in a shorter period of time and help to control the damage done to the grain crop early in the summer.

In the fall of 1917 Mr. Ernest Guertin was appointed secretary-treasurer to replace Mr. Rousseau, who had resigned earlier for personal reasons.

Many references were made throughout the earlier years of the operation of the M.D. for the concern of establishing a local hospital, preferably to be located in St. Paul. Many letters of inquiry were directed to the Provincial Department for a directive and assistance in this matter.

The response by the senior government was never very encouraging, as they would point out that this should be a joint venture and should include as many of the neighboring M.D.s as possible. This was so as to share the burden of maintenance by as many ratepayers as possible.

A great concern for a hospital was shown in the year 1918 when so many of the local people were struck with the dreaded flu which took many lives in the area as well as throughout the whole country.

References are made as to the establishment of health gates for discouraging any strangers from entering into the area. There was also complete abolition of gatherings or public meetings in order to try and control public contact and stop the spreading of the disease to nonstricken families and districts.

In the year 1919 Mr. James Brady, who had been the first Reeve of the M.D., was appointed secretary-treasurer. He replaced Mr. Ernest Guertin who had resigned at a special meeting for reasons not stated.

A note of appreciation was offered to Mr. Brady for offering his services to the Municipality in time of need. His salary was set at \$600.00 per year, providing he fill in as assessor as well as all other municipal duties pertaining to his office.

The realities of having a railroad to serve the area were indicated by council when a special meeting was called on August 16, 1919. This was to consider a letter of request sent by the Canadian Northern

Western Railway asking for the road closure of parts of Centre Ave. which was located in the M.D., mostly the portion of road allowance between sections 8 and 9 in township 58. There was no negative discussion on this motion. It was carried with great appreciation of the joint efforts of all concerned in obtaining the rail service to the area.

In the month of December, 1919, Dr. J.P. Decosse was appointed Medical Officer of Health for the M.D. of Laurier replacing Dr. Charlebois who had acted in that capacity for some years.

One concern the M.D. council had during the winter of 1920 was the shortage of feed for the cattle in the area. At the January 3, 1920 meeting it was resolved that contact be made with a Mr. Jos Bourgeois regarding the purchase of two car loads of hay by the M.D. for redistribution to farmers in need. The price was to be \$27.00 per ton F.O.B. Spedden.

Many advances were made during the rest of the winter to local people for the purchase of feed. There was also assistance for personal food purchases. A by-law was passed on February 7, 1920, authorizing the borrowing of \$6000.00 for that purpose.

Lack of feed and funds for the purchase of the feed must have worsened as in the meeting of March 6, 1920, a motion was moved by Mr. O. Poirier that the following by-law be enacted for approval.

"Under the authority vested in this Municipal Council of Laurier Municipal District #543, by the Government of Alberta that a by-law be passed authorizing the raising of the sum of \$12,000.00 by this Municipal District for the meeting of advances in purchasing fodder, grain and other relief to ratepayers, who, owing to bad crops and other adverse conditions are unable to procure the same, and necessities of life. This to be known as by-law #89."

Three readings were given to this motion and it was duly noted that the meeting was adjourned to await instructions from the Minister of Municipal Affairs as to how this financing would be accomplished.

During the spring election of councillors a dispute arose about the returning officers, count so all ballots were sent to the Municipal Department and they declared Mr. Augustin Boutin elected for a two year term. Others elected at this time were Mr. Emery Labrie, J.A. Fortin and Mr. O. Poirier was reappointed reeve for one year.

There is no doubt that the spring of 1920 was the worst year for Alberta farmers, as the records show. There was consistent debate of ways and means to procure feed and seed for the local homesteaders in order to have them stay on the farms at all costs.

It was noted in May of 1920 that the council instructed the secretary to record the following:

"That this Municipal Council learning with deep regret of the death of the Hon. A.G. Mackay M.P.P.K.C., Minister of Municipal Affairs and the loss sustained to the Government as well as the whole province at large, recognizing his many qualities in the administration of his office and his record as a public man of Canada and further that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Prime Minister of the Province and the relatives of the deeply lamented Late Hon. Minister of Municipal Affairs."

Taxes for the summer municipal road work were set at 9¢ per acre to be paid in cash or road and bridge work by the ratepayers.

March of 1921 saw again a change on council after Mr. Arsene Lamothe, Mr. Arthur Lamothe and O.N. Selland were elected out of a slate of nine contenders and the Secretary-Treasurer resigned to be replaced by Mr. Laudas Joly, chosen over one other applicant, Mr. Eugene Guertin.

During the following months Mr. Joly resigned his position as secretary-treasurer. The job was advertised and two applicants were interviewed for the position. Upon the count of a secret ballot, Mr. Hyacinthe Montambeault was given the task of secretary.

Also we see in March of 1922 some new names added to the roster of councillors, these being Mr. Dan Joyal, T.C. Ashworth and J.K. Johnston, all elected for two years. This is the first entry in the minutes showing Mr. T.C. Ashworth entering local politics, as well as the local auctioneer, Mr. Joyal, making his debut.

A change of legal advisor took place at the March 1922 meeting. Mr. McPheeters was appointed for the year with strict instructions to file caveats for medical bills caused by the 1918 influenza and not paid by the land owners as the M.D. had paid the doctors involved.

The price of road equipment seemed to have gone down from past years, as a purchase from Mr. Edmond Mailloux was approved in May of 1922, for 15 scrapers @ \$17.50 F.O.B. St. Paul des Metis, one adjustable road drag \$39.50. This indicated quite a change in price, about half as much as in 1917-1918.

It is not the writer's intention of quoting all municipal transactions but only from the very first few years of operation to let the reader understand the problems these pioneers had in establishing a community and helping the farmer to obtain a trail or road out to a market for his produce.

There are many entries pertaining to local disputes and settlements of such, as well as negotiations for road right-of-ways when the surveyed road allowance was situated where the cost prohibited the construction of even a trail. The council was definitely plagued with having to choose which farmers would be assisted first, leaving many to

form groups and petition for the overthrow of a previous decision and tabling of many more.

In the early twenties we see some negotiations by the neighboring M.D. to join forces to try and obtain more assistance from the Provincial Government. At the June 1922 meeting a delegation of two councillors from the St. Vincent M.D., Mr. E. Bouchard and Mr. C. Talaska, introduced a plan to improve a market road following the telephone line to St. Lina from St. Paul des Metis. The M.D. councillors endorsed this idea with directions to the secretary that he draft a letter applying for the same to the Department of Public Works.

Having no records of the M.D.'s affairs for the years 1923 to 1930, I can only assume these years were as turbulent and interesting to observe as the past years. As for the ambitions and dedication of some of the councillors they are definitely to be regarded with pride. Because of their determination the area developed very quickly.

Having had no roads when the M.D. was formed in 1915 as well as not having any cash revenue to use for the contracting of building the market roads the area had one asset to use and they used it well. It was manpower. Most settlers wanted to work off their fair share of taxes and did.

By the year 1923 the road east from the hamlet was passable by car, weather permitting. Culverts and bridges had been fabricated and marshy land had been corduroyed. This process was very time consuming.

The procedure used for crossing a swamp without hauling in a whole lot of clay that would disappear in the marshy wet land with traffic passing over it was referred to as "to corduroy a road". This meant that men were put to work cutting logs specified to be no smaller than six inches at the small end as well as being long enough to cover the width of the road, about 14 feet.

When the timbers were ready they would be hauled by team and wagon to the low land to be crossed. They were then laid across the road, alternating the large end at every log, placed very close together. That way you never had two small ends of the logs covering two spaces. This prevented wide gaps between the logs and kept the road running level and straight. After the logs were in place dirt was hauled by wagon and sometimes by wheelbarrows to cover the timbers completely. This would act as a floating road.

There are still many roads used within the county that the corduroy stayed under as a base for the construction that took place later.

The records of 1930 show that there was much despair and hardship among the farmers of the area. As well, many of the laborers were unemployed. What the government handed out to the needy was less than enough for a bare existence.

The elected councillors in 1930 were Odilon Paquin as reeve, Pierre Charron, O. Selland, H. Dupre, Jos Mackowecki and A. Letourneau. Mr. Hyacinth Montambeault was still the secretary-treasurer, having held that position for a number of years.

At this time all old age pensions, widow's allowances as well as assistance to the needy were approved by the councillors or in many cases rejected for infractions of the guidelines set before them. When payment was made, it was through the secretary-treasurer and at the discretion of the councillor representing the area that the applicant resided in.

As an example an October 1930 motion read:

"The councillors are of the opinion that Mrs. Mary _____ allowance is plenty and sufficient in view of the fact that there are two persons in the said family, where by one of them could be at liberty to work and earn wages to help towards the upkeep of the whole family or else it would be advisable for Mrs. Mary _____ to tell her daughter to get out of the house and provide for herself."

"Motion Carried" "Unanimously"

The amount of the relief in question was eight dollars per month towards feeding and clothing seven people. I can only imagine that many people old enough to go out and work would have done so if jobs had been available in the area, but 1930 was just the start of the downfall of the Canadian economy. Many remember the hungry thirties very vividly as many went hungry and very often.

We find many entries of payments to the "destitute" which would be people in dire need. By today's standard the degradation these applicants were subjected to would never be allowed. They first had to be interviewed by the municipal authorities and then an inspector had to be sent out to look over their particular situation and assess the amount of need, after which the name and amount would be minuted and reviewed monthly.

We read with great interest a letter to the Federal Department of Immigration and Colonization in Ottawa dated December, 1930:

"Dear Sir:

Re: Harold R _____

We beg to advise you that the above mentioned party who has been residing in this district since March of 1929 had been committed for trial and condemned by Court under a charge of butchering cattle in the district.

Furthermore the Court recommended the deportation of the said party to the United States of America. He is an American citizen of undesirable character and destitute of all means to support himself. The Councillors of the Municipal District of Laurier #543 are of the opinion that action should immediately be taken to

purge the district of all undesirable citizens and above all, when they are from foreign extraction. Should you desire further information in this matter, I would refer you to the Provincial Mounted Police, St. Paul Alberta.

Yours truly,

H. Montambeault

Secretary Treasurer"

Another note of interest recorded at the March 1931 meeting indicated what was in store for the local farmer who had to work off his taxes. Due to the financial position of the Municipal District "it is moved by Pierre Charron that roadwork wages be reduced as follows:

\$2.00 per day for 1 man

\$4.00 per day for man and team

\$3.50 per day for foreman

\$6.00 per day for 1 man and 4 horses

\$2.00 per hour for 15-30 tractor"

The small boom of the twenties was over and the start of the recession was on.

The minutes of the 1931 Annual Meeting indicate the discussion revolving around the pros and cons of building a Municipal Office. The previous one had been destroyed by fire as well as some of the records possibly explaining why the 1923 to 1930 minutes are not in existence any longer.

One more indication on the plight of the council is indicated by another letter directed to all ratepayers as a plea for support.

"April 29, 1931

Dear Sir:

In view of the fact that the currency is out of reach at the present time, having no price for our products, the Councillors of the Municipal District of Laurier #543, after mature consideration, have decided to continue the proceedings of last year in the following manner.

Having at heart not to hurt the district but to help it by all means, the present situation should be studied by all citizens, animated by goodwill so that the future would be brighter and easier without the shade of a doubt.

The M.D. of Laurier is absolutely in need of \$8,000.00 on or before the 1st. day of August next.

The following is a copy of a motion passed on the 13th. day of March approved on the 4th. day of April and rectified on the 25th. day of April, 1931:

Moved by H.R. Rice that circular letters be forwarded to ratepayers demanding 20% of all arrears of taxes on or before the 1st. day of August, 1931. Also payment in full of the amount of current taxes on or before the 16th. day of December, 1931.

Carried Unanimously.

H. Montambeault

Secretary Treasurer"

Collection of taxes by distress was a term the officials used quite frequently in the wording of motions pertaining to taxes. It is noted with interest such motions as the following.

"Moved by Pierre Charron that a bill of sale for five steers be accepted in regard to taxes on S.E. 24-59-9-W4th and that the said parcel be redeemed from 1932 tax sale. Carried." "Moved by S. Passek that the sum of \$45.00 cash be accepted from A. Ouellette for the S.E. 30-59-8-W4th and a bill of sale be given for five hogs and said land be redeemed from 1932 tax sale. Carried."

"Moved by H. Dupre that a bill of sale for 100 bu. of wheat and 2 horses be accepted in regard to N.E. 15-56-8-W4th and same be redeemed from 1932 tax sale. Carried."

On November 13, 1932 a land tax sale was held at the Municipal Office in St. Paul with Mr. Dan Joyal being the auctioneer. The following land was sold.

N.E. 13-56-8-W4th To Mrs. Hilden Henrickson for \$251.00
N. ½ 13-58-8-W4th To J.E. Sodergren for \$200.00
S.W. 27-58-8-W4th To Jean Sasinowski for \$150.00
W. ½ S.E. 27-58-9-W4th To Alexis Bruneau for \$25.00
N.W. 8-57-8-W4th To Roger Noel for \$100.00

These are only an example of the large amount of similar entries throughout the thirties where land was abandoned and somebody else was willing to try and make a go of farming it. Some succeeded and some left later on.

Farm produce fell to an all-time low in those early thirties, making it impossible to make a living and also practically less possible to pay taxes. There was some relief and destitute cases that would have starved to death if not assisted. The others were no better off but had managed to raise enough off the farm to feed their families.

An election was held in the month of February, 1933 with the following results.

Division #1	H.R. Rice	108
	O.S. Caskey	48
Division #2	Steve Demchuk	76
	Andrew Tymchuk	52
Division #4	H. Dupre	122
	Pierre Charron	121

The council was then comprised of H.R. Rice, Steve Demchuk, Stanley Passek, H. Parker and Jos Makowecki.

Mr. Rice and Mr. Dupre were both nominated for the office of Reeve and upon a show of hands it was a tie vote. A motion was made to have a draw of name to decide the situation. The result was Mr. H. Rice was elected reeve.

There was some controversy as to how the determination of length of term would be derived. Several motions were made, "referred as irregular" and finally a draw was agreed upon, after which it was quite clear that a few of the councillors were very reluctant to have "lady luck" determine their stay in office.

The councillors felt the financial pinch personally as well as the ratepayers as the following letter would indicate to the Municipal Inspector.

"The council extended to all ratepayers the privilege of working 75% of the 1932 municipal taxes. Some of the councillors took advantage of this privilege, owing to the fact that they considered they were entitled to it as ratepayers. In the case of the last mentioned, Mr. H.R. Rice, the council received from the C.P.R. company a letter authorizing him to work what taxes he would be allowed to work on the lands which they hold in this municipality. He took advantage of this and the councillors were of the opinion that in view of the fact that all these privileges were extended to others, they were not overstepping their rights as set forth in Section 29, Subscription E of the M.D. Act.

The councillors are of the opinion that they should enjoy these privileges along with the other ratepayers in connection with their own lands and lands which they rent. Some councillors own large tracts of land in the municipality and find it difficult to pay all their taxes in cash.

Carried Unanimously"

As we read the minutes of the M.D. we have to understand and visualize the plight these people were in and sometimes an entry may look humorous but for lack of explanation. Take the following.

"The Council of the M.D. of Laurier this day passed a motion unanimously asking that Mike F_____ be released from jail or time to attend to his own seeding operations this spring. This action was taken at the request of a large number of ratepayers owing to the fact that if Mr. F_____ does not obtain his freedom, the M.D. of Laurier will be obliged to furnish relief to him for some time to come. Therefore the council respectfully requests that this favor be granted.

Carried"

Also quite by coincidence we note in bills entered for payments some pertaining to drug companies reading:

"Gopher Poison and drugs for destitutes \$_____."

All this on the same entry would leave some to imagine the latter being also purchased for those referred to as destitutes.

Also quite by chance we find an entry pertaining to the land presently "Lamothe Binette" subdivision. This land, approximately 70 acres, was sold to Mr. Odilon Gagne on August 5, 1934 for the sum of \$600.00

All immigrants who wished to obtain the right of entry for their spouse and family as well as other relatives, had to first obtain from the municipal council a letter stating that the person applying was in a financial position to look after these persons without assistance from the government.

Any applicant who had to receive assistance of relief in the early thirties was well warned that every penny had to be paid back to the M.D. before a letter could be drafted to assist him in bringing his family to Canada. This weighed very heavily on some of the later applications that were discussed and rejected by council. Many were approved under condition of repayment.

We again at this time find that most of the records as well as the minute books of the M.D. affairs are not available. We presume that they were destroyed during the fire that leveled the Co-op Store. The M.D. had its offices located in the same building.

The nearest we could find from where we had left off in the 1934 records were the years of 1944 and 1945. At this time it was the 23rd meeting, January 12, 1944, of the M.D. of St. Paul #542. We can assume that the smaller M.D. had already started to be taken into the formation of a larger area of jurisdiction for the St. Paul M.D. offices.

The ruling council for that year was made up of the following people: Mr. O. Holthe, J. Makowski, H. Dupre, Mr. Eugene Foisy, Mr. E. Belzil with Mr. Dupre nominated for the position of Reeve for a period of one year.

At this meeting the secretary, Mr. Rice, reported to council that receipts for the year 1943 had been \$177,000.00 and that very few liabilities were outstanding. Also showing was a net surplus of \$41,000.00 for that year's operation. A very healthy financial position.

It is surprising to see a very active trade in municipal lands, many quarters being sold or redeemed from tax sale indicating possibly the boom created by W.W. II. Prices were in the range of \$250.00 to \$1200.00 per quarter depending on improvements.

At this time the Old Age Pension was around \$15.00 to \$20.00 per month with some approvals of \$35.00 for a couple plus hospitalization.

It is with interest that we note major purchases of road building equipment. One entry of Jan 13, 1944 was a by-law to purchase \$24,785.00 of machinery from Union Tractor and International Harvester Co. in Edmonton, as well as a road patrol for the sum of \$6,025.00 from Richardson Road Machinery.

There are several entries indicating the assumption of operations by incorporation of the St. Lina M.D. in 1943. One of them being:

"The secretary informed council of the unsatisfactory state of affairs that prevailed in connection with the records of the former M.D. of St. Lina #574 which had recently been taken over by the St. Paul office and Mr. W.J. Chester who engaged in the auditing of said records outlined the situation in brief."

The Annual Meeting of Feb. 19, 1944 is listed as being the second annual meeting for the M.D. of St. Paul #542. One caption would indicate a similar problem which exists today. A very poor turn out.

"There being very few ratepayers, a recess of about one hour ensued."

Nominations at this annual meeting for electoral divisions #2, #4, #6, and #7 took place and the list of nominees reads:

Division #2	Makowski, Joe
	Taschuk, Harry
Division #4	Foisy, Eugene
	Tomlinson, Robert
Division #6	Gamblin, Bradford
	Groleau, Ted
	Meunier, Aurele
	Talaska, John
Division #7	Hawke, R. John
	Midwinter, Jack W.
	Sloan, Robert
	Woodlock, David

The results of the Feb. 26th election give us the winners as being:

Division #2	Makowski, Joe	208
	Taschuk, Harry	60
Division #4	Foisy, Eugene	195
	Tomlinson, R.	98
Division #6	Gamblin, B.	141
	Groleau, T.	245
	Meunier, A.	92
	Talaska, J.	37
Division #7	Hawke, John	122
	Midwinter, J.	84
	Sloan, Robert	116
	Woodlock, David	70

Elected were Mr. Makowski, Mr. Foisy, Mr. Groleau and Mr. Hawke, being the new member elected to council. Because of the redistribution of boundaries the council had one more member than in previous years.

The rates of pay for municipal work were also discussed and set at the meeting of March 15, 1944. Moved and carried that:

"Ordinary labor 50¢ per hour
Each team of horses 15¢ per hour
Road foreman 65¢ per hour
Farm tractors \$1.50, \$2.00, \$2.50 per hour for small, medium and large tractors respectively, with all cost of operation to be born by the operator."

The matter of rates for maintenance of roads with horses was left to the discretion of the individual councillors due to the wide variations in conditions throughout the district.

In the 1944 and 1945 records there are a great many references to responsibility of hospital accounts due to hospitals outside of the district. The majority of them were approved for payment by the M.D. with a few not approved because the same medical treatment was available at local hospitals, namely St. Paul and Elk Point.

It would appear that all medical and hospitalization of Senior Citizens as well as relief cases and others fell to the discretion of council as to which they would assume payment of. In most cases and in any case where the immediate family had means to pay, payment of the billings was denied.

Mr. M.T. Grekul was taken on staff as assistant secretary in the spring of 1944 at a pay of \$2000.00 per annum plus two weeks holiday with pay. Shortly after this appointment, Mr. H.R. Rice resigned his position of secretary treasurer to take employment as a salesman of road machinery with an Edmonton firm.

Mrs. Rice, having been a stenographer for the M.D. office for many years, also resigned her position. After interviews Miss Aline Rocheleau was hired as her replacement at a wage of \$900.00 per year.

A great many requests for leave of active duty by local soldiers when needed on local farms were assessed and recommended to the Armed Forces when warranted. We note a few non-approvals for various reasons stated and recorded.

Also any land owner serving his country in one of the armed forces was eligible for tax exemption unless his land was rented and being farmed by someone other than his immediate family. These types of recorded applications were numerous and varied from factual to borderline cases, with a few misrepresentations.

In May of 1945, Mr. Victor Tessier was hired as road foreman of construction with remuneration set at \$.85 per hour and \$.20 per mile for the use of his truck while on the job.

At the June 15, 1945 meeting of the Municipal Council, a Mr. Lobay from the Department of Agriculture explained to the councillors the benefits of an Agricultural Service Board and its funding in part by the government. As a result a motion was introduced by Mr. Mackowecki that a board be formed.

Mr. E. Belzil was appointed chairman of the new board and Mr. H. Dupre was named as second member of council. Members at large were Mr. U. Horton of Heinsburg, Mr. Will Sutton of St. Lina, with Mr. Euclid Belzil appointed as secretary for a term of one year.

We can read with interest a motion introduced to decline an application for the operation of gas pumps at Mallaig by Mr. Brosseau and Mr. Thomas, with a

notation that this service is already available to the public.

Another note of interest was as follows:

"Council was advised that Mr. Belzil authorized the purchase of a stove at a price of \$65.00 for Mrs. M_____, an indigent."

A motion ratifying this action was passed.

In August of 1945 Mr. Gardner, District Engineer at St. Paul, advised that \$3,000.00 was allocated by the Department of Public Works to be spent on the District Highway south of the steel Beaver River Bridge at St. Lina, now better known as the Range Line Road or Secondary #867. This road was up for construction in the year, "1979", on approval of the District Engineer, Mr. Charles Lendzion.

For the past years this road has been a very controversial issue for local representatives in their representations to the Provincial Government Civil Servants in Edmonton.

Throughout the thirties a high percentage of the local farms were up for tax sales. Very few were redeemed because of the financial plight of the area farmers.

The contrast of the economies are very well documented by reading the entries of the forties. The monthly minutes point out the interest of buying back land that had been let go for taxes as well as the buying of more quarters by the majority of farmers.

All local schools operated under a system of small divisional boards until the early forties and then the large school division was formed to operate all schools within the municipality.

There are many entries in the municipal minutes indicating the problem of the requisition of school taxes for the purpose of operating the education system. Therefore it seems that it was quite natural for the school trustees to want a different arrangement.

Through many negotiations the two boards of elected representatives decided to leave it up to the ratepayers to decide whether or not a county system was wanted.

The municipal council in 1961 was comprised of Reeve R.D. Sloan, L. Kapjack, Carl Zarowny, Steve Demchuk, Armand Lamothe, Leslie Sloan, and Mr. W. Anderson.

The St. Paul School Division #45 was then administered by Chairman Mike Shepert, Vice Chairman Dr. T.G. Miller, Mr. Norman Howarth, Mr. Charlie Williams and Mr. Leo Mailloux. The superintendent, newly appointed, was Mr. R. Marinier replacing acting superintendent Mr. John Percevault.

At one of the School Division regular meetings, namely May 20, 1961, that we read a motion introduced by Mr. Howarth that reads:

"Moved: That we make application to the Department of Municipal Affairs expressing our desire of

joining the County System, but first, that a committee of two board members be appointed to meet with Municipal Officials of M.D. #86 expressing the board's desire of joining the County System." A secret vote was taken and Mr. Percvault counted the votes and declared that majority of the board had voted in favor of the motion."

Mr. Shepert and Mr. Howarth were appointed to meet with the M.D. Council at their next regular meeting to discuss the possibility of forming a County by joining the School and Municipal business under one banner of authority.

The two appointed delegates met with the municipal council on June 7, 1961. The M.D. records read as follows:

"A delegation comprised of the Chairman Mr. M. Shepert, board member N. Howarth and the Secretary Treasurer, Mr. Phil Meunier, representing the St. Paul School Division interviewed the Council regarding the formation of a County."

They then introduced the following statements to support their demands.

- "1. Provincial Government is in favor of the County System. It is only a matter of time before the entire province is organized into Counties.
2. The present is a good time for the formation of a county due to the inauguration of a new School Foundation Program.
3. The St. Paul School Division was due for a new School Superintendent.
4. Two members of the board are to be elected this year.
5. The Board was of the opinion that since there was some evidence that School Divisional Boards are losing some of their local autonomy, the County should take over."

The Municipal Council informed the delegation that they agreed with the School Board in certain respects, nevertheless the request for the County should come from the ratepayers assembled at an Annual Meeting.

The majority of ratepayers favored the County System. After an election the first County meeting was held on Jan. 3, 1962 with the following members sitting as councillors for alternating years.

Division #1	Louis Kapjack	2 years
Division #2	Carl Zarowny	3 years
Division #3	John Drobot	1 year
Division #4	Charles Lafrance	3 years
Division #5	Robert D. Sloan	1 year
Division #6	Robert Cheshire	3 years
Division #7	William J. Anderson	2 years

It seems that the era of subdividing lake lands had also emerged at the same time, more by coincidence than rules or regulations being changed by the government.

Starting in the middle fifties a few subdivisions appeared on record. The increase of the early sixties continued climbing until the rush of city people to own a small piece of county real estate took a large part of the meeting time, more and more by year to where it constituted a major part of county meetings in the seventies.

During the sixties many of the small local county schools were closed due to lack of students. The children were bussed to alternate points within the County.

Some of the schools closed and the students enrolled in St. Paul schools were from St. Vincent, St. Edouard and St. Brides. The Mallaig and Ashmont schools absorbed the children from the Sugden and St. Lina School Districts.

There were many delegations in attendance at County School Committee meetings to express their opinions or present petitions for and against retaining certain schools. Many different reasons were expressed but the small centers were losing their population and the Provincial Department of Education was for larger schools.

Not having the time and space to rewrite the total extract of affairs of the County to the present we will mention that the election of 1966 again brought new people to the County Council. Elected that year were:

Division #1	Mr. Bob Smith
Division #2	William Lessyk
Division #3	Mr. John Drobot By Acclamation
Division #4	Rudolph Cote
Division #5	John Labant
Division #6	Bill Thatchuk
Division #7	Albert Chapdeleine

The 1974 County election saw again a change on council of three new Councillors. The representatives that year were:

Mr. John Drobot Reeve

Division #1	Mr. Bob Smith
Division #2	Mr. John Zenko
Division #4	Mr. Rudolph Cote
Division #5	Mr. John Labant
Division #6	Mr. Bob Cheshire
Division #7	Mr. Oliver Noel

After the 1977 County election only one change resulted and that was Mr. Robert Bouchard elected to replace John Labant who had retired from politics that fall due to the demand of his large farming operation.

During the rising oil boom in the Province the County had been burdened with a large increase of traffic using its roads. The tax base, as well as Government grants, could not measure up to the financial demands of upgrading and regravelling of roads to accommodate this.

The results were a very frustrated council, indeed, when trying to do something about it. The public pressure for road improvements in the years 1974 and 1975 saw the expenditures climb beyond means of payment.

The financial report of the County affairs showed the County in 1976 to have a deficit of over \$900,000.00, but much better roads for the people to travel on.

Municipal Affairs, through their Minister, Mr. Dick Johnson, gave the councillors a reprimand. They appointed a comptroller in the person of Mr. Vic Willsey to represent the government department in scrutinizing the County expenditures.

The provincial authorities finally realized the position of smaller municipalities in raising funds and did come to their rescue to some extent by an additional grant in the local county case.

The deficit did help to make all concerned realize that sooner or later you have to pay for what you've received.

It also improved the working relationship between the County of St. Paul and the Provincial Government to some extent, as they had inside information from the appointed comptroller who sat in on all County business and also signed the cheques.

The record shows the County in 1978 to be very strong financially and also doing more road improvements than had ever been done before. Also the Department of Transportation was taking a larger part of improving the secondary highway system within the County.

The announcement of the Municipal Debt Retirement grant by the Premier of Alberta, during the election, will definitely put the County in a financial position to be able to do a lot more for its ratepayers in the years to come.

We must realize that the area we live in was only opened for development seventy years ago and that the pioneers made the first trails by following the high land and cutting trees when they had to, so as to get to the land of their choice.

We can now go for a Sunday drive, one direction or another, and come back by a different route to gain a change of scenery. We have come a long ways in seventy years.

BEELA SCHOOL DISTRICT #4360

Settlement in the Beela area necessitated the building of a school in the immediate area to serve the educational needs of its people. With the building of the school, the need of choosing a name for this institution became the responsibility of the predominately Ukranian population of this district. It was suggested, by the local school board executive, to have the school called Beela after a village in Galicia by the same name.

On September 6, 1928, the Beela School District #4360 was established comprising of the following lands; Sections 30 and 31, west halves of sections 29 and 32, and those portions of sections 19 and the west half of section 20 lying north of the Saskatchewan river in township 55, range 9; sections 23, 25,



Beela school class of 1943 preparing for a concert. L-R: Billy Popowich, Jenny Zaiec, Annie Zawadiuk, Lillian Popowich, Mary Tymofichuk, Olga Zawalusky, ?, Jean Popowich, Vicky Zawalusky, Elsie Sikorski, Irene Kurylyk, Peter Popowich, Tommy Zawadiuk

26, 34-36 and those portions of sections 13-15, 22, 24 and 27 lying north and east of the Saskatchewan River in township 55, range 10; Sections 1-3 in township 56, range 10; sections 6 and the west half of section 5 in township 56, range 9, west of the 4 meridian.

Senior trustee at the time was Fred Popowich of Lac Bellevue, the Treasurer Harry Taschuk of Lac Bellevue, Alberta.

On May 20, 1929, the sum of two thousand dollars was borrowed upon the security of the district for the purpose of building a frame school house. This school operated to 1938 when it was destroyed by fire. Classes that year were held in the school teacherage till a new school was built. Mr. Joe Sasnowski was the teacher at the time and lost many of his personal belongings in the fire.

Mr. George Taschuk was the contractor responsible for the building of the second school. People helping Mr. Taschuk were Mr. Bill Boratynec and Mr. Emil Gill and others. It is said that the contract was for less than \$2000.00, total cost of constructing the second school.

The Beela School belonged to the Two Hills School Division up until 1954. Bill Halina was the first secretary of the Two Hills School Division, later that position filled by Mr. Shavchook.

On December 30, 1954 the Beela School District #4360 was transferred from the Two Hills School Division #21 to the St. Paul School Division #45, Subdivision #3.

The last classes held at the Beela school were in about 1943. Mrs. Mary Gadowski is remembered as being the last school teacher at that school.

On September 19, 1961 the Beela School District #4360 was incorporated into the County of St. Paul #19. The sale of the Beela School site was approved in June of 1966.

Mr. John Huculak is remembered as being a school trustee for many years. Secretaries of the local school board were Mr. George Taschuk and Mr. Wm Borchuk. Later Mr. Alex Popowich held that position.



Part of the crew building the second school — Wm. Boratynec, Emil Gill

Teachers, as remembered by the local pioneers, who taught at the school were:

Mr. Metro Nykolaychuk
Mrs. Ospeldesyn
Mrs. Pitblado
Mrs. Fidorko
Mr. Phillip Uniat
Mr. Joe Sosnowski
Mrs. Mary Gadowski 1941 - 1943

HENLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT #3457

by the Yaremko Family

The first attempts of establishing a school in the Lac Bellevue area can be traced back to the year 1917. The name Henley was chosen after an early pioneering family from that community.

On Feb. 24, 1917, the Henley School District #3457 was established comprising of the following lands; Sections 1-4, 9-12 and the east half of Sections 5 and 8 in township 56, range 9; Sections 22 and 28, 33-36, the east halves of Sections 29 and 32 and that portion of the east half of Section 20 lying north of the Saskatchewan River and those portions of Section 13-16 and 21 lying north of the afore mentioned river in Township 55, range 9; west of the 4th meridian.

At that time the senior trustee was A. Drolet of Lac Bellevue. The treasurer was Frank Tatosky of Lake Eliza, Alberta.



Henley School when first built in the early 1920's.

The building of the school commenced sometime in 1917 and was completed in 1920. During the construction of the school, the settlers were generous with their time and labour. The men were home-bred sawyers, carpenters and joiners. They already had some experience, as they had built their own homes.

Shortly after completion in 1920, the first classes were held under the instruction of Mr. Sam Kulba. At the time there was no teacherage and Mr. Kulba boarded for one week at each student's house. Some of the other teachers to follow, used to live in the cloak room of the school.

On Sept. 2, 1920, the sum of five hundred dollars was borrowed upon the security of the school district for the purpose of paying for school furnishings.

Since Henley School was built sooner than the Lac Canard or Beela Schools, some children from those areas attended classes at the Henley School until their schools were built.



Henley School Senior Class Teacher: Dorothy Gadowski 1947.

During the period from 1920 to 1927, classes were held only from spring to fall. School days were usually from March to Christmas. After the Christmas concert the school would close for two to three months. Some of the teachers that taught in that period were Mr. Sam Kulba, Miss Juliette Grenier, Mr. Don Allen — still living in Holden, Miss Thilda Holmes from Camrose, Mr. Robert Crams — an Englishman from England, Mr. Alex Rupchon, Mr. Smith — a parachutist from England, Mr. Wanorski, Mrs. Humphries, Mrs. Brown — whose husband taught the children judo during recesses, Mr. Metro Lakusta, and Mr. Oleksi from Leduc.

The teachers came with a variety of experiences from different parts of the country. There were many teachers during this short period, many who stayed for three months and went on.

In 1921, collection of school taxes became the responsibility of the local school board. This board, with some input from the provincial government, was responsible for the hiring and paying of the teachers salaries as well as the general operation of the school.



Concert of the Henley School children in 1928. Teacher: Mr. Nick Buck. Standing in the Back Row: Harry Petruk, Fred Zackaruk, Edward Hancharuk, Sophie Melnyk, Annie Polowskyk, Katie Yuschyshyn, Mary Burak, Rosie Tymofichuk, Sophie Hancharuk, Mary Zacharuk, Mr. Buck, Bill Halina, Mike Zacharuk. Front L-R: John Halina, Stanley Gadowski, Nick Tymofichuk, Walter Polowy, Paul Melnyk, Joe Halina, Mary Hancharuk, Cecile Tymko, Helen Petruk, Mary Zacharuk.

In the fall of 1928, the Department of Education ruled that the school term was to begin in September and end in June. Now that the classes were held during the winter months, the people of the community foresaw the need for a barn. It was built the same year.

Teachers from 1928-1940 were Mr. Buck, Mrs. Oliver, Mr. William Parayko, Mr. Chrapko, Miss Halyk, Miss Nancy Shemaluk and Mrs. Shewchuk.

In the early thirties a teacherage was built and Mr. Parayko was the first to live in the school shack.

With a growing community population, came a need to enlarge the school, therefore in 1940 construction of the second room commenced. It was also completed the same year. This was the year that the school recorded its highest enrollment — 69 pupils. Classes were then taught up to grade nine, with two full time teachers. Some of the teachers were Mr. Pete Romaniuk, Mr. Bill Skorapadic, Mrs. Subchyshyn and Mrs. Rose Bagan. The last two teachers to teach at Henley School were Mrs. Mary Gadowski and Mrs. Dorothy Gadowski.

Mary Gadowski started in the fall of 1943, teaching grades 1-4 until June of 1951.



Miss Grenier's class of boys 1920. Notice the clothing worn by the children in those years.

In September of 1951, the school bus first started busing children, from grades 9-12, to Myrnam because Henley School belonged to Two Hills Division #21. From this time on, the two-room school ceased to operate. One room was vacated and classes were then from grades 1-8 with one teacher, Mrs. Dorothy Gadowski. The enrollment had declined to about 30 students.

Dorothy Gadowski had started teaching the junior class in 1942. From 1944-1951, she taught the senior class, grades 5-9. When the enrollment dropped again in 1951, Dorothy Gadowski's co-worker, Mary Gadowski left. Dorothy was then left in charge of the classes from grades 1-8 until June of 1957.

On December 30, 1954, the Henley School District #3457 was transferred from the Two Hills School Division #21, to the St. Paul School District #45. Even though there was a transfer of the School Division from Two Hills to St. Paul, the children continued to attend Henley School.

By June of 1957, the enrollment had fallen to 16 students. The school was closed. Bus service was extended to the junior children in the area. The senior and junior classes were vanned to St. Paul.

The sale of the site and buildings was approved on October 21, 1958. The school building was later moved to St. Paul, where it was remodeled into a Greek Orthodox Church.

On September 19, 1961 the Henley School District #3457 was incorporated into the County of St. Paul #19.

Sources of information on the Henley School were scattered and limited due to the lack of school records. The early history of Henley School has been derived through interviews of old-timers. Time has faded some of the details in the memories of these people. It is therefore possible that some of the names and dates may be slightly distorted. For this we apologize.

List of Henley School Teachers

Mr. Sam Kolba 1920
Miss Juliette Grenier 1921
Mr. Don Allen 1921
Miss Thilda Holmes 1922
Mr. Robert Crams
Mr. Smith 1922
Mr. Wanorski
Mrs. Humphries
Mrs. Brown
Mr. Metro Lakusta
Mr. Oleski 1926
Mr. Buck 1928
Mr. Oliver
Mr. Parayko 1931
Mr. Chrapko 1933
Miss Holyk 1935
Miss Nancy Shemaluk 1938

Mrs. Shewchuk 1939
 Mr. Pete Romanuk 1940
 Mr. Bill Skorapadic 1940
 Mrs. Subchyshyn
 Mrs. Rose Bagan 1941
 Mrs. Dorothy Gadowski 1942-1957
 Mrs. Mary Gadowski 1943-1951

LAC BELLEVUE SCHOOL #4089

by Russ Paziuk

The Lac Bellevue name was derived from the French "belle vue", meaning beautiful view, by someone many years ago, who probably stood on the high banks of the lake in the area, admiring the scenic beauty below.

On January 12, 1922, the Lac Bellevue School District #4089 was established comprising of the following lands; sections 7, 18, 19, 30, 31, west halves of sections 8, 17, 20, 29, 32, in township 56, range 9; sections 10-15, 22-27, 34-36 in township 56, range 10 west of the 4th meridian. The senior trustee at that time was D. Noel of Lac Bellevue, Alta. The treasurer was A.E. Saunders of Lafond, Alta.



Lake Bellevue School Class, Teacher: Mary Valentine

On May 2, 1923 the sum of twelve hundred dollars was borrowed upon the security of the school district for the purpose of building a frame school house and equipping same. Even though the school was built in 1923, the first classes in this one room school were not to begin till 1924. The two acres of land on which the school was built was purchased sometime in the year 1935. The barn was built in 1929.

Mr. Paul Kostyniuk was a trustee of the school sometime in the mid 30's, and held that position for approximately five years. Other trustees of that time as recalled by Mr. Kostyniuk were Mr. Desaulniers, Mr. Lafrenière, and Mr. Harry Taschuk.

On January 9, 1939, the Lac Bellevue School District #4089 was transferred from the Two Hills School Division #21 to the St. Paul School Division #45, subdivision #3.

Like most other schools in those first years, (1924-28) classes were held only in the summer

Tom Taschuk

*Lafond, Alberta
 April 11 1935*

Mr. Taschuk

Myron Alberta

Dear Sir:

The trustees of the Lac Bellevue S.D. have decided to offer you twenty four dollars for the two acres of land on which the school is settled

*Yours truly
 Mrs. Adyenne Desaulniers
 Lac Bellevue S.D.
 Lafond P.O.*

months. The local residents collected taxes, hired the teachers, and were responsible for all payments related to the operation of the school.

The first teacherage was built by Tom Taschuk and Paul Kostyniuk in about 1950. Prior to this time, most teachers lived with the Tom Taschuk family. A few lived with other families in the area. (Wanechkos, Lafrenières) This first teacherage was replaced by a larger one in the fall of 1954. This one was built by Mr. Steve Krissa and Mr. Paul Kostyniuk.



Lac Bellevue School Class, Teacher: Mary Miller.

The Lac Bellevue School #4089 operated to August of 1957. From that date, children living west from the school transferred to Lafond and children living anywhere east were vanned to St. Paul.

On January 24, 1958, the sale of the Lac Bellevue School was approved. The sale of the building was to a Mr. Tommy Aitkon who then moved it to his farm in the Ashmont area and remodeled it into



Lac Bellevue School, Teacher: Steve Petruk



Lac Belevue School softball team.

living quarters. The teacherage was moved to Lafond, and was used there.

Mr. Steve Krissa was a secretary of the local school board up until the school closing in 1957. His 18 years of service in that capacity was longer than any of his predecessors. Mr. George Taschuk held that position for three years, immediately prior to Steve Krissa's long term.

There was never a well on the property and water was carried by the older children from the Taschuk farm, a distance of $\frac{1}{4}$ mile.

And like other schools during the war years, the difficulty of finding and keeping teachers in the country schools was the greatest problem. Some teachers would spend only several months and move. Many times, the only teachers that could be hired would be supervisors.

Listed below are teachers that taught at the Lac Bellevue School. Because of the lack of records, information was derived through interviews. We apologize for any errors or omissions in our information.

Teachers at Lac Bellevue School

Mrs. McKosham (1st teacher at that school)

Mrs. Brien

Edith Osbaldeston

Nick Samoil

Eli Tashuck

Walter Leskiw

Miss Pacholek

Mrs. Dahlstead

Helen Roshka

Mary Valentine

Helen Shapka

Mr. Danyluk

Mary Filewich

Mary Miller

Steve Petruk

LAC CANARD SCHOOL DISTRICT #4080

by Russ Paziuk

Lac Canard was named after a small lake nearby which abounded with wild ducks; an English translation would be "Duck Lake".



Lac Canard School as it looked upon closure 1957.



Basement excavation for new addition.

On December 14, 1921, the Lac Canard School District #4080 was established, comprising the following lands: sections 13-16, 21-28, 33-36 and the east ½ of sections 17, 20, 29, and 32 in Township 56, range 9; the south half of sections 1-4, and the south-east quarter of section 5 in Township 57, range 9, west of the 4th Meridian. Population of the school district at that time was approximately 100.

The senior trustee at the time was George Fakas of Lac Canard, Alberta.

On July 10, 1922, the following lands were withdrawn from this school district: the south half of section 4, and the S.E. ¼ of 5 in Township 57, range 9. W4.

On January 6, 1923, the sum of two thousand dollars was borrowed upon the security of the district, for the purpose of building the first school-house and teacher's residence. The Lac Canard School was built in 1923, with the first classes held in 1924. The local school board was responsible for the operation of the school, and the hiring and paying of the teachers. The secretary at that time, Wm. Halina, was assigned the duty of collecting the school taxes from the ratepayers of the Lac Canard School District. Ignace Gadowski held that position for some time, and it was later taken over by Walter Kitiuk.



Group of area residents working on school addition 1939 - 1940 ??
Gerald Thoben on left.

Mr. Wm. Parayko was the first teacher to teach at the school. In the years 1924, 1925, 1926, and 1927, class would only be taught from Spring to Christmas. Due to cold weather and blocked roads, the school remained closed in the winter.

The late 30's saw a greater population in the district, with as many as fifty-six pupils attending the one-room school. Consent was given to the local board in 1938 to borrow an amount not to exceed \$400.00 for the purpose of operating for that year.

In 1939-1940, a decision was made to build on to the existing one-room school, and to have classes to Grade X. Construction began with Frank Linkewich as contractor, with local residents working out their taxes by helping. It took from 8 to 10 men working the whole summer to complete the addition, as Ludwig Gadowski and Harry Paziuk recall. They remember dismantling the porch and chimney, prior to building the addition.

On December 30, 1954, the Lac Canard School District #4080 was included in Subdivision #3 of the St. Paul School District #45.

In 1957, the school was closed, following a decision by the Department of Education to centralize and have the children bussed to St. Paul.



Last class at Lac Canard School — Valentine party in 1957. L-R:
Edna Gadowski, Lawrence Aksenchuk, Mike Krys, Joanne Zuk,
Nettie Krys, Adeline Gadowski, Gary Wertypora.

On October 21, 1958 the sale of the building was approved, and in September 1961 the Lac Canard School District #4080 was incorporated into the County of St. Paul #19.

Interviews with surviving pioneers of the district reveal some of the more interesting information:

- a. Pay for the teachers in the early days was only possible if school taxes were collected. Sometimes, teachers' earnings would be carried over

to the next year when crops or farm income would warrant collection of taxes.

- b. Hiring of teachers, in the early days, was the responsibility of the local school board.
- c. All schools experienced a shortage of teachers during the War years — sometimes schools would remain closed for a short time when a teacher couldn't be found.
- d. Sometimes, a teacher out of Normal School would be hired, would teach a very short time, and leave to further his or her education.

Because of lost records in a County fire many years ago, some information was derived by interviewing local people. It is possible that some of the information supplied, especially the list of the teachers over the years, may not be totally accurate, could be incomplete, or not in correct order.

The teachers of Lac Canard School:

Mr. William Porayko	1924
	first teacher
Mr. Kitchener	1925
	taught only two months
Mr. Crispeau	
Mr. Don McCallum	
Mr. Harry Chrapko	
Margarette Paul	1927
	(April to Christmas)
Mr. Wm. Teresio	1928 - 1930
Mr. Mike Fedorkiw	1936 - 1941
Miss Mary Pawlyk	1936 - 1941
Mr. Nick Karatiw	before 1940
Miss Rose Slevinsky (Bagan)	1939 - 1940,
	1940 - 1941
Mr. George Woroniuk	1941 - 1942
	(senior room)
Miss Ellen Marine	1943
	(senior room)
Miss Gladys Marine	1943 (?)
	(junior room)
Mr. Steve Kalita	1943 - 194?
Miss Pearl Valentine	(senior room)
Mrs. Coombs	
Miss Marcela Sopchyshyn	
(Rawluk)	
Miss Ann Polowy	1947 (?) - 1950
Mr. Jerry Petruk	1951 - 1957

JOHNSTON SCHOOL #4130 1922-1929

by Herb Wilkenson Monsili

The Johnston School was organized about 1922, by J.K. Johnston, Mr. Herbert Wilkenson, Mr. A.J. Talbourdet and Robert Nieberding. Senior trustee was J.K. Johnston.

The school was built by the local residents. The building was a log structure.

It was named Johnston School after Mr. J.K. Johnston.

Some of the teachers that taught at the Johnston School were:

Mr. Robert Harrison 1924-1926

Mrs. J.K. Johnston 1927

Mr. Albert Russel 1928

Mrs. J.K. Johnston is now living in Vancouver B.C.

MANY LAKES SCHOOL #4130

by Mary Stasyk

On January 11, 1929 the name of Johnston School #4130 was changed to Many Lakes School #4130.

Later in that year, eight hundred dollars \$800.00 was borrowed upon the security of the district for the purpose of building cement foundation and siding on the school, digging a well, building a teacher's residence, barn and building a fence.

Mr. J.A. Beaton was Secretary Treasurer at that time.

School Taxes were paid separately from the municipal taxes. The taxes were paid to the School Secretary Treasurer. (Enclosed receipt 1929 of Mr. Hovelkamp)

Teachers at Many Lakes School were:

Mr. O'Neil 1929 — probably lived with J. A. Beaton.

Mr. Floyd Stauffer 1930-1931 — First teacher to live in teacherage.

Mr. Carmen Sellers 1932.



Many Lakes School Class of 1929. Bottom Row: Gerald Hovelkamp, Elizabeth Hovelkamp, Albert Nieberding, Willie Brennet. Top Row: Anna Nieberding, Lawrence Mclean, Teacher Mr. O'Neil.

(RURAL)

*Many Lakes*SCHOOL DISTRICT No. *4130*

PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

TAX NOTICE FOR THE YEAR 1929Name *J. Haveltham*Address *St. Paul*Date *July 27* 192*9*

Take Notice that you have been assessed on the Assessment Roll of the above named School District for the year 1929 for the property shown below. All taxes due must be paid within 30 days after the date of the posting of the Tax Roll, failing which the amount due may be levied with costs by distraint as provided by The School Act.

A penalty of five per cent. is added to all unpaid taxes after the 15th of December and five per cent. is added on the first of July each year following the year in which they are levied.

J. A. Beaton

Secretary-Treasurer

This notice to be produced when making payment.

P. O. Address *St. Paul*

No. of Assessment	Owner or Occupant	DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY						No. of Acres	Assessed Valuation	TAX RATE <i>25</i> mills on dollar	TOTAL TAXES DUE		TOTAL TAXES
		Plan No.....	Lot	Block	Sb Div						Current Year	Arrears	
<i>12</i>		<i>SE 4</i>	<i>17</i>				<i>160</i>	<i>20</i>			<i>21 25</i>		<i>21 25</i>
<i>14</i>		<i>SE 5</i>	<i>17</i>				<i>160</i>	<i>60</i>			<i>15 25</i>		<i>15 25</i>
<i>15</i>		<i>SW 5</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>64</i>	<i>160</i>	<i>590</i>				<i>14 75</i>		<i>14 75</i>
<i>17</i>		<i>SE 6</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>64</i>	<i>160</i>	<i>380</i>				<i>14 50</i>		<i>14 50</i>
<i>10% Disc allowed on current taxes if paid before July 15</i>													<i>65 75</i>

NOTE: Payment must be made in Cash by Registered Letter, or by P.O. Order, or Accepted Cheque or Draft payable at par to the Secretary-Treasurer.

School tax



Off to Many Lakes School Winter 1930. Anna and Albert Neiberding with ever faithful horse "Kelly".

Miss Lola Wilhening 1933-1936 — The school was plastered inside and organ donated in 1934. Mrs. Freda Gossilin 1936-1945 — Mrs. Gossilin taught for 9 years. In 1937 or 1938 the cloak room was added to Many Lakes School.

1939 Many Lakes School #4130 was included in Subdivision 1 of St. Paul Division #45.

School Taxes were included with the Municipal Taxes in 1939.

All the following teachers stayed in the teacherage.

Mr. Carl Paloway 1945-1947 — From fall 1947 to 1953 when the school was closed Many Lakes School had a number of teachers and supervisors as follows: Mr. Alan Arnold (Super) Miss Barabra Basisty (Super) Mr. Theodore Schmiat (Teacher) Mr. Avron Bagon (Super) Mr. Leo Langlois (Super) Mr. Joseph L'Heureux (Teacher) Mr. George Visey (Teacher) Mr. Stephen Urchak (Teacher) Mr. Micheal Griffon (Teacher)

In the 1953-1954 term, the pupils of Many Lakes School were bussed to St. Paul School.

THERE WE WERE, ALL TOGETHER CHRISTMAS AT MANY LAKES — 1931

by Mary B. Mark

A winter bird looking for crumbs would have found slim pickings in the Many Lakes School District a few weeks before Christmas in 1931. But he would have found a refreshing variety as he flew over the endless snow-covered hills from one isolated home to the other. There would be a crust of German rye, a dry English muffin, perhaps a chunk of bannock. or a cold pancake rejected even by Steve Oia, Mr. Hopey or Jack Beaton, the district bachelors.

These were the depression years; the struggling farmers sold their wheat for little more than 3¢ a bushel, butter for 12¢ a pound, eggs a mere ten cents a dozen. Nevertheless, the trustees of the Many Lakes School District, along with the teacher, Mr. Floyd Stauffer, agreed that a Christmas concert with treats for the children of the area was a necessity. In order to raise the money, three Friday night dances would be held in the schoolhouse with admission at 50¢ a couple.

The dances were well attended. The mothers rallied to bring cakes and sandwiches. They would make a boiler of hot coffee, also a large pot of cocoa for the children who went along to the dances, as a matter of course. Eagerly we joined in the square dances, fast polkas and fox trots. I was 12 at the time, my little sister, nine and we never sat out a single dance as girls were in the minority.

After lunch the singing would begin. "Hopey" a Canadian from away back, sang Newfoundland ballads in a mournful voice. Henry Scheper and the Siemer brothers would sing well-loved German melodies, their voices brimming with emotion. The Metis boys were much applauded: "Sing! Sing!" They would strum on guitars and banjos and with dark eyes flashing, sing and yodel cowboy songs popular at the time: Strawberry Roan, Lonesome Cowboy, When the Work's All Done This Fall, and the tear-jerking "My Father Was a Drunkard."

These sons of the Metis settlers who lived in the district, and whose small brothers and sisters were our classmates seemed to us romantic characters. Everyone knew that the dances could not have taken place without them, as they provided the music, the square dance caller and a lot of the action on the dance floor.

When the cash was totalled at the end of the socials, there was enough to buy every child a 50¢ gift and a bag of candy as well.

In school, young and earnest Mr. Stauffer guided us in writing letters to Santa Claus. I was a little cynical of all this, but I wanted a pen very much so went along with the idea. My sister wanted a sparkling ring. Most of the little girls wanted a doll, the boys wanted a ball or a gun.

Every day we rehearsed Christmas carols in preparation for the concert. Madonna-faced Antoinette Swan played the part of the Mother Mary, cradling a doll in her arms. Some of us were the Shepherds with blankets across our shoulders. The Three Wise Men, short and fidgety, sang in feeble voices afraid to be heard: "We t'ree Kings of Orient Are!"

The night of the concert finally came. We were wrapped in woolen blankets and seated on oat bundles in the bottom of the sleigh box. Fred had put bells on the horses and they jingled merrily as the team trotted over the crisp snow through the heavily wooded countryside. The wintry air pinched our cheeks and noses but we loved it all. Overhead the sky was bright with stars. Almost it seemed one shone more brightly than all the rest.

At the school the gas lamps radiated welcome light through the windows and people were hustling in the open door. There were more teams with sleighbells and shouts of welcome as more neighbors arrived. What a crowded place that old school house was by the time everyone was there! The desks were filled with children, ladies with babies, and men standing around the fat wood-eater.

Our narrow makeshift stage barely accommodated the Christmas Tree and the pupils, as they sang the opening carol in which all were asked to join. A chorus of voices from many lands filled the little schoolhouse in the Alberta hills: Silent Night, Holy Night.

The concert proceeded. Our teacher had done all he could to show forth our talents, but aghast before this schoolful of parents we breathlessly rattled off recitations and songs, then dashed for the shelter of the backstage sheet. At last the performance was over. There was a sudden hush as people whispered that Santa Claus would be coming soon: a sound of sleighbells at the door, a hearty "HO! HO! HO!" In came Santa Claus, red-faced and well padded, white wispy beard only slightly askew, and the much longed for big sack on his back!

The children forgot their shyness as their names were called out and rushed forward to take their gifts from this generous hand. Not one was forgotten, not even the babies and preschoolers. What wonderful gifts! The fountain pen, the sparkling ring, the balls, little dolls and toy guns! The bags of candy with an orange and an apple! We were so busy we almost forgot to notice Santa Claus slip away and later on Mr. Dan Melvin, who must have been out somewhere, came back into the school looking sort of self-conscious.

The hub-bub simmered down to a contented hum as the plates of sandwiches and cake, the cups of hot coffee and cocoa were handed carefully around. Children stuffed with good things quietened down. The Big Day was just about over.

For many this was the sum of Christmas festivities, there were so many poor folk.

But tonight the people were all smiling, pleased with the success of their efforts. Their eyes shone with good will as they shook hands all around, wishing each other a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

There we were, all together!

MANY LAKES SCHOOL

by Lola Wilkening

In the winter of 1933 it was discovered that the teacher of the Many Lakes School, Carmen Sellers had contracted T.B., so had to go to a sanitorium. I, Lola Wilkening, was lucky enough to be hired to fill his shoes. The school term ran from March 1st until Christmas at that time, so that the children did not have to travel the long distances to school during the worst part of winter. It was bitterly cold with huge drifts of snow in those years and the children walked.

In the first year of my teaching career, there were seven students enrolled. From the Hovelkamp home Elizabeth, Gerhard, and Berthold came. From the Talbourdets — Guy and Laurent and from Neibordings Anna and Albert. By 1936 there were twenty-two students, so obviously the community was growing — due to new people coming in and the baby boom in the G. Hovelkamp home. I think I had a new Hovelkamp every year to start Grade I.



Many Lakes School Class of 1934. On horseback, Albert and Anna Neiberding, Guy Talbourdet in middle. Left to right — Laurent Talbourdet, Gerhard Hovelkamp, Willie Brennet, Berthold Hovelkamp, Elizabeth Hovelkamp. Standing by horse, George Hovelkamp and Antoinette Swan.

The Melvins moved in with three children. The Gabrieau's with four and various Metis families whose children came and went, the McLean's, Pauls, and Daniels to mention some.

Nearly all of these families lived in little log houses, with bare board floors, which were usually scrubbed within an inch of their lives. The homes were always bright and cheery and smelled of good things to eat, the kitchen especially. The children were healthy, probably due to the long walks in the fresh air, good plain food and the rest they got under feather quilts. I must add, however; that Grade I was pretty hard on the little ones. Some walked at least four miles to school. Upon arrival the little six year olds sometimes fell asleep at their desks.

Their uniforms consisted of overalls (present day blue jeans, but with suspenders) flannel or woolen shirts and some rubber shoes that defy description. The shoes, in springtime when it got warm, were used as containers for frog's eggs, gleaned from the slough just over the hill from the school. The children discarded sox as soon as the weather warmed and their little legs would be calloused and black at the shoe top from it rubbing around the leg. The girls wore dresses all of the time but some of them, I believe, still wore those awful shoes. The shoes were practical because they did keep the feet dry, but what a price to pay for dry feet. The children did have warm and clean clothing. The fathers brought them to school if the temperature dropped to 40 below.

We had a wood stove for heating the school. I often see them in antique stores now, and shudder because I was the janitor and responsible for starting the beastly thing in winter. We had an inexhaustible wood pile provided by the parents and the happy lot of splitting the wood fell to Guy Talbourdet, bless his heart, because he was the biggest kid in school.

The school was log on the inside and during the summer of 1934 the school board was rich enough to have it plastered, so school closed for two weeks. It was a big improvement and some church group gave us an old organ, so we had a musical education too! Our library consisted of two or three meter long shelves of books as old as "Methuslah".

There was a teacherage for teacher accommodation which was as warm as an apple box. Every winter morning anything liquid was frozen solid. As a matter of fact sometimes when I washed the floor the water froze before I could wipe it up, and I was not a slow worker.

The school was situated on top a high hill while the well was at the bottom. It was the type with a pail on a rope, operated by a pulley. Some lucky child held the position of water monitor, whose task was to carry water up the hill. You might call it a Jack and Jill operation in reverse.



Many Lakes School 1934 — Left, Teacherage — Right, School.

We had the usual set of “boys” and “girls” plumbing. On one occasion a little Grade 2 boy asked to leave the room. It happened to be a windy day. On our hill top we caught every gust. The little fellow came tearing into the school screaming, “Teacher, the toilet has blown over.”

Squirrels kept neat little piles of seeds on the benches in the outhouse, stashed in the corners, a habit that always intrigued me. The woods teemed with rabbits and the drumming of partridges was a common sound.

Neighbors nearest the school were the Laderoutes, very friendly Metis. Mrs. Laderoute was a fine lady. She had four children who were young adults at that time.

There were two bachelors close to the school. Jack Beaton, who had been gassed in the first world war, led a solitary life on a small pension. He was pleasant to visit with, quite interested in geology. Manford Hopey had come west from the Maritimes and eked out a living of sorts on his homestead. He seemed to make just enough money to keep himself supplied in the basics: tea, coffee, sugar, bannock and tobacco.

If you have seen the movie, “Don’t Shoot the Teacher” you can relate to my feelings when I went to Many Lakes, because I felt exactly the way that teacher looked when he left home. Mother had insisted that my sister Kathren, accompany me on this safari. She stayed from March until June and I was on my own then, but I’ll not forget our first experiences. To us, St. Paul seemed the end of the earth even though, as the crow flies, it was only about one hundred miles north. Since there was no direct connection, we went to St. Paul via Edmonton on the train. On our arrival we were met by Mr. Talbourdet who took us in a sleigh to his home where we spent the night. Next day he took us to the school and left us in the teacherage. Talk about a strange, lonely and depressing place.

We lit a fire in the cook stove and while we were getting settled glanced out of the window and saw a man! He was carrying a rifle (to hunt rabbits) and he was a Metis! We had never seen any part Indian people, strange as it may seem and we were scared stiff, so we stuck a knife in the door jam to secure it

and when he rapped on the door we did not open up. He asked when school would open. With knocking knees we yelled the information through the door and he left. Later, when we got climatized, we told the neighbors and enjoyed many good laughs at ourselves.

One spring, my Mother came to stay with me, from March 1st until May. She enjoyed the children although she was stuck on that hill top the whole time. The roads were so bad, cars could barely make it in to that spot. I got around on horseback.

The children were dear little ones who got along very well together, no fighting. They were happy in spite of hardship and deprivation. They had what counts, loving parents with strong characters, strong family ties and deep religious beliefs. They did not have to be taught values. They learned that at home plus respect, for themselves and others.

TEACHING AT MANY LAKES SCHOOL 1936 to 1945

by Mrs. Freda Woods (Gosselin) nee Hauzenher:

My teaching began at Many Lakes July 2, 1936 at an annual rate of \$700.00

The members of the School Board were: Mr. Robert Nieberding, Mr. A.J. Talbourdet and Mrs. Freda Hauzenherger with Mr. M. Melvin as Secretary-Treasurer. The salary was paid by the district, plus the Government Grant.

Many Lakes School, south of St. Paul, conducted school known as a summer school, as it was closed during the winter months.



Many Lakes School 1936 — Parents and children: Top row: R. Nieberding, Grandma Melvin, Mrs. Melvin, Mrs. G. Hovelkamp, ?, Albert Nieberding, Gerhard Hovelkamp, Henry Willer, Teacher Mrs. Freda Gosselin. 2nd row: Hermann Siemers, Mrs. Herbert Wilkinson, Mrs. Freda Hauzenberer, Mrs. F. Lanfermann, Elizabeth Hovelkamp, Anna Nieberding, Eileen Melvin, Laurent Talbourdet, Berthold and George Hovelkamp. 3rd row: Willie Gabriaux, Daniel Melvin, Maude Hauzenberer, Mary Lanfermann, ??, Vera Melvin. Front row: Hoe Saeger, Ewald Hovelkamp, Joe Hovelkamp, ??, Ida Saeger, Henry Lanfermann, ???..

A		A
75	Written	75
95		99
85		88
72		90
77	Promoted to	74
63	Grade IX	88
B		81
73		85
63		72
B		A
80		75
77		74
A		A
220 a min	Silent	363 Oral
80		77
B		A
A		A
76		81
170 out of 190	176 out of 186 days	B
B		

Very good work!

*You did very well
Berthold and would be
wise to take Gr. IX*

Since I was living in the district, the Department of Education suggested I be hired to teach 10 months per year, like the other districts.

The school teacherage and barn were situated on a higher plateau than the surrounding area of homesteads, lakes, valley, muskeg and creeks. After a rain the school yard dried quickly.

The building would accommodate approximately 25 students, Grades I to IX. A big barrel heater provided warmth. Students carried 4 foot long wood in every noon hour. The teacher did the janitor work for \$5.00 per month. A rectangular



1973 — Mrs. Freda Wood,
Athabasca (Teacher of Many
Lakes School 1936-1945).



Mrs. Freda (Gosselin) Wood.
Many Lakes School Teacher
1944.

clothes drier was made by a parent. This hung from the ceiling on pulleys. After noon hour activities (tobagganing, etc.) clothes and mittens could be dried before it was time to go home.

School was a very serious business. On cold mornings, desks were moved close to the heater. Reading lessons, mathematics plus dramatization were first. Writing was done after the ink thawed.

Children were expected to work diligently. However, life had its humorous moments when in our studies and discussions the class would break out in a volume of laughter. All the same, Mr. G.L. Gibault (Inspector) stated in his report when I had 27 pupils. "Mrs. Gosselin maintains good discipline and order."

Many of these students spoke German at home. Printed English names were taped to every object, illustrations and map. I was earnestly learning German via Radio Language Lessons from the University of Alberta, which were a great help to me to interpret what the children tried to tell me. It was surprising how soon the children conversed entirely in English.

Inspector Gibault's 1938 report stated, "Class work is very well organized and extremely with agreement with the Programme of Studies".

With such a wealth of outdoor beauty around us we correlated many fascinating activities. In the fall the beautiful varied colors gave stimulus for Art and Illustrations in notebooks of all grades. Collections of leaves, plants, weeds, flowers, seeds, birds and nests etc. for display at the St. Paul Festival and Fair.

Students tamed squirrels and wild rabbits. Robert Vallette fed and tamed chickadees that ate out of his hand.

The County of St. Paul had a circulating library box which we all appreciated.

Grade IX had interesting experiments making oxygen and hydrogen. One of the Hovelkamp boys attached a concealed 6 volt battery to a pail of water outside the back door. He dropped a few 25¢ pieces into it and told anyone. "If you can get the money, you can keep it": a carry over from Electricity Study Unit.

The study of wasps and bees in relation to legume crops and honey was interesting. At that time we were given limited sugar coupons. Honey was very precious. Siemers kept bees. Emile Picard spilled 2 gallons of honey in the back of his car. No problem! He drove the car to the clover fields, opened the doors and in very short order no trace of honey remained.

Our Social Studies was called "The Enterprise". We had no T.V. or films. We studied from books and searched for pictures. Each student would choose what they wished to explore, e.g. mapwork, environmental factors, Animals, Jungle Life, Pioneers, C.P. Railroad, Royal Canadian Airforce, that pertained to the study. Then they would illus-

trate it and mount it on a long collage of beige building paper 16 feet long, unrolled on the school floor. We used tempera, water colors, wax crayons and coloured chalk to give the desired effects. A pantograph was used for copying drawings to any scale desired. This collage was finally put upon the wall beside maps of paper mache, or colored salt and flour mixtures, like today's play dough.

One windy afternoon, the windows rattled when in walked Mr. Rosaire Racette, our new School Inspector. We hadn't heard his knock! He was very favourably impressed with the entire class enthusiastic participation.

A study on Japan culminated in a Japanese tea, for parents and neighbors. It was held on Mother's Day. Our visitors sat on cushions, on the floor. The older students served tea, cake and cookies. Everyone remembered that their manners were showing. A very cordial, happy atmosphere prevailed. The little ones thought it was hilarious! The day concluded with a ball game, parents also. Then the horses were hitched to wagons and democrats. Everyone departed happily for their homes, singing.

The students were remarkably good singers for a small country school. They were ambitious enough to try two part harmony successfully.

One year we presented our Percussion Band at a Musical Festival. A drum, home made of tanned beaver leather, sticks, triangles and brass Swiss Bill, 1878 Chaintelle provided rhythm. Ewald Hovelkamp played the accordion. It was very well received.

When noon hour and recess had to be spent indoors, time passed pleasantly, with games like hopscotch, hide the thimble, hang the man, Jacob and Rachel, singing, choral speech, or playing instruments, mouth organs, accordion, violin and guitar.

Preparations for the Christmas Concerts included everyone in the district. Costumes were sewn at home while the students memorized their lines. Everyone wrote to Santa Claus. The letters were carefully taken care of by T. Eaton Co. Ltd. and forwarded to the North Pole. The concerts included plays, recitations, dances, shadowgraphs, songs and carols.

For recreation everyone co-operated, attending district dances to raise funds for the childrens' gifts. Music was either donated or paid approximately \$2.00 per person for an evening's playing. Pat Paul (an old time fiddler) and his orchestra came. Violin, guitar, accordion and drums were the usual instruments.

Later Emile and our neighbors had a building "bee" and built a small hall on our farm where dances, box socials were held.

At the school, however desks were piled 3 high along the front blackboard. The whole family came.

A bed for wee babies was made of quilts and pillows on top of the teacher's desk. A gas lamp shed its feeble beams over all. Some of the dances we knew were: Waltzes, French Minuet, Waltz Quadrille, Circle One-Step, Tag One-Step, Fox Trot, Finger Polka, Schottische, Irish Lilt, Polka, Reels, Ladies Choice, Old Time Waltz, and Square Dances. The "Caller" was a very important man. The older dancers taught the young ones. Everybody loved to dance. All lunches were home made and sold at the dances for 25¢. This included sandwiches, cake or cookies, put up in brown paper bags. Coffee was free.

For recreation people invited each other over for supper. Some enjoyed card games such as Whist, 500, King Pedro, Cribbage and Bridge. On Sundays there was Church and picnics, movies in St. Paul, silent at first then talking and then only in black and white.

Meanwhile, back at school, with 27 students from Grades I to IX inclusive, much planning was necessary. Many students walked miles, carrying lunches in a 3 lb. lard pail. At noon they were tired and hungry. First we prepared hot chocolate for noon. Later we organized a hot lunch program. The 3 grade nine and 2 grade 7 students headed the



1937 Many Lakes School Picture — Top: Gerhard Hovelkamp, Albert Neiberding. Middle: Laurent Talbourdet, George Hovelkamp, Daniel Melvin, Lawrence McLean, Berthold Hovelkamp. Girls: Elizabeth Hovelkamp, Anna Neiberding, Maude Hauzenberer, Eileen Malvin.



GOVERNMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

St. Paul, Alberta,
March the 19th, 1942.

Mrs. F. Gosselin, Teacher,
Many Lakes S.D. No. 4130,
St. Paul, Alberta.

Dear Mrs. Gosselin:-

At last I can find a few moments to congratulate you for the wonderful Enterprise you and your pupils have planned and conducted on OUR ROYAL CANADIAN AIRFORCE.

Thank you for having thought of sending me a copy of it. With your permission I would like to send a type-written copy to the A.T.A. Magazine for possible publication. I would like to do more. If time and money permit, I propose to make mimeographed copies for distribution to our St. Paul Divisional Teachers. If my plans cannot be realized, I certainly intend to have this copy with me during my visits to other schools so that I may show the teachers what a real enterprise really is.

Do not forget that I want your permission. Inform me as to your wishes in the matter, at your earliest possible convenience.

Your obedient servant,

Superintendent.



GOVERNMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

St. Paul, Alberta,
February 10, 1945.

Mrs. Freda Gosselin, Teacher,
Many Lakes S.D. No. 4130,
St. Paul, Alberta.

Dear Mrs. Gosselin:-

Miss Annette Gamache has reported to me after one month's apprenticeship in your school. She now feels confident that after the help you have provided for her she has a good chance of passing an examination in practice teaching at the Edmonton Normal School where she wishes to report on Tuesday next.

Dr. Lord's instructions were to the effect that if I thought favorably on Miss Gamache's teaching, she would be permitted to take another examination. Unfortunately I could not visit your school during her period of apprenticeship, and I must necessarily depend on your own report in order to write a recommendation for Miss Gamache.

Will you, please, write this report to me and forward it as soon as possible, in any case before Tuesday when Miss Gamache is to take the train to Edmonton. I am particularly interested in knowing: 1-How she plans and prepares her lessons? 2-Her method of presentation and the results she secures? 3-Her class control? 4-The quality of her English. etc etc.

If you happen to come to St. Paul to-morrow, I would appreciate seeing you about Miss Gamache. You may call at my residence for that purpose. If you do not come, then I shall expect to receive a report so that I may offer a recommendation to Dr. Lord of the Normal School.

Your obedient servant,

A. Gamache
Superintendent

committee. Part of the cloakroom was turned into a tiny kitchen, with painted shelves for water pails, cooking pots, bowls, cutlery and supplies, and a counter top for soup preparations. All was home made. The parents were wonderful! They sent fresh vegetables, canned vegetables, canned pork, or beef or mutton and once canned goat, also dried peas, beans and rice. We had milk, eggs, butter, meat, cheese, jam from berries and lovely home made bread. Recipes were exchanged.

A complete Health Programme was included. The organization was conducive to the formation of right work habits, a desire to excel and to accept responsibility on the part of the pupils. The co-operation of all the parents deserves a special mention.

One of the highlights I remember was a Nature Study Trip in the spring. We went to Pelican Island near Wilkinsons, travelling by team and wagon. In a boat we quickly paddled over to the island. It was the first time we had ever seen a pelicans' nesting place, although the birds often flew over the school house. These birds were about 5 feet long from bill to tip of the tail. Someone once wrote:

A very smart bird is a pelican,
His beak can hold more than his belly can.
He can hold in his beak enough for a week!
I don't see how in the hell he can.

Author unknown.

Radio School Broadcasts from the Dept. of Education brightened many a cloudy day. We were asked to write in and tell about our environment, birds, animals etc. One of the students sent in a letter telling about the Prairie Chickens' Dance on top of Bright Hill on a clear moonlight night. What was our surprise when we turned on the Radio Lesson and heard: "Good afternoon Mrs. Gosselin and Students at Many Lakes School, St. Paul Alberta. We received your interesting letter. Today we have a play for you called". "The Prairie Chickens Dance on Bright Hill". Hope you like it. We did. The music and sound effects with the play made it so real. You could have heard a pin drop in the quiet classroom. Naturally a "Thank you" reply was sent in immediately.

Grades V to IX had to study Civics, Government, operations of Justice. We had a Town Field Trip. We visited the Creamery, Flour mill, Foundry, Journal, County office and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Barracks. This was during the last war. A young unknown soldier prisoner was locked in a cell. He turned his back to the students. He had been absent without leave and was being sent back to his regiment. This shocked the school students.

Religious instruction was a school subject. Father LeClainche visited periodically. He travelled with a horse and buggy. His stories of the early days were enjoyed by all. Everyone liked him. The boys

always hitched his horse to the buggy and drove it up to the school for him. He was a real pioneer.

An incident I remember. One beautiful Spring Friday morning the Hovelkamps came to school with their horse and buggy and Talbourdet's Billy Goat followed them.

During noon hour the yard went suspiciously quiet! I slipped out for a look around. There were my pupils coaxing the Billy Goat in and out of the teacherage windows, amid cheers and laughter.

When they tried to catch him, he climbed the woodpile and bleated!

Next Monday a downcast Hovelkamp family brought the news "Talbourdet's Billy goat has disappeared! The older boys drove the horse to the barn to unhitch it. The door unlatched and what was their surprise when a "happy Billy Goat" greeted them! He had been locked in all weekend.

My pleasant memories of the children and parents of the Many Lakes, are some of the treasures I hold dear. I am very glad to hear that so many have done so well.

The years when, "The birds listened at the window while Mrs. Gosselin was teaching" (Written by Violet Callion 1936) have flown by.

THE METIS FAMILIES AT MANY LAKES

by Mary B. Mark

In the early 1930's, when we came to know our friendly Metis neighbors in the Many Lakes District, we found that they were all part of a large family, and one whose early history would make a very interesting story if it were possible to find its beginnings.

Mr. and Mrs. Laderoute lived on the S.W. 17-57-9-W4th in a well made square log house with a lean-to on the back. The land belonged to their son, Frank who was in his early twenties. Also living at home with them were their younger daughters, Gertie and Bessie and son Wilfred who owned the adjacent north-west quarter. Their married daughters were Mrs. Johnny MacLean, Mrs. Florence Swan and Mrs. 'Big Dan Daniels', all living on adjoining quarter sections.

The Old Lady Laderoute, as she was called, was a home body, a reserved, neat little Native woman whose children held her in highest regard and listened to her bidding. She made patchwork quilts and braided rugs and other handwork which decorated their well kept home.

Our closest neighbors were Johnny MacLean and his wife and children, Alice, Archie, Lloyd, 16, Daisy, 10 and Lawrence, 6. (Approximate ages).

At the time Maude and I first began walking our way to Many Lakes School, we would pass through the yard of a log shack on the north side of Laderoute's slough. We knew that Old Man Daniels lived there. He had taught our brother, Fred, how to trap

muskrat, how to shoot, how to follow animal tracks and many stories of his Indian ancestors. He had several older sons. "Big Dan", who was married to Mary Laderoute was often seen at the dances. Their children, Stan and Henry, were not yet of school age at the time. Stan Daniels, who is well known in the Province for his work with the Metis Association of Alberta, very much resembled his father.

Proceeding on our way to school, as we circled this slough, we would meet Daisy and Lawrence Maclean coming along with their lunchpail, and when we got to Mrs. Laderoute's yard, Bessie would join us for the final mile up to the school.

Sometimes too, Pat Cunningham and Violet Calliou, would come along the trail on Pat's horse. They lived with their Uncle, Felix Calliou, a man well known in St. Paul and area for his knowledge and interest in politics. He and his wife were foster parents of Pat and Violet, both orphaned at an early age.

Pat Paul, middle-aged at the time and living in St. Paul with his wife, also owned the N.E. 18-57-9-W4th and took an interest in Many Lakes events. He was especially sought out to play his fiddle at the school house dances. We would feel fortunate if he came to play as we knew he played in the band for dances in St. Paul. Sometimes his wife Florence Swan would dance a jig for us.

About 1934 Milton Gabrieau, his wife and four of their children came to live on the quarter south of us, N.E. 17-57-9-W4th, formerly known as Count Sasonowsky's Homestead. Their sons, Henry and William presently farm west of St. Paul. Mr. Gabrieau also played well on the violin. The little girls, Lena and Rose attended school in the 1940's.

These families always attended the school dances, helping with the music with fiddle and banjo and the singing of cowboy songs.

Times were hard for them during the depression as they were for us. With their skills at hunting and fishing and making moccasins, they managed very well and always seemed happy with their lives. Alice MacLean married big Harry Laboucane and I can remember seeing the baby, Herbie, soon after he arrived, wrapped up snugly as was their custom.

As time went on the young people ventured to greener pastures, the older people to Metis colonies.

UNITED CHURCH SERVICES AT MANY LAKES SCHOOL

by Mary B. Mark

In the Summer of 1932 we were informed that the Minister of the United Church in St. Paul would be coming out to the Many Lakes School House for a Sunday Service. The families who came to the Church Service were: Wilkinsons, Hauzenbergers,

Nieberdings and sometimes Steve Oia and Manford Hopey. The Minister was Rev. R. Robbins, a tall, young, thin gentle Messenger of the Christian faith. He would speak to us very informally, we would sing two or three hymns: Rock of Ages, What A Friend We Have in Jesus, and others, and then disband.

Once we had met the Minister, he tried to visit us in our separate homes, to have a meal with us and look after our welfare. I still have the Book "Silas Marner" by George Eliot, which he gave me Christmas of '33, along with some others because he knew I was an addicted book worm. We all felt bad when he left St. Paul to go back to his home in Nova Scotia. His health was not robust.

Later we had Summer Church Service delivered to us by a student minister, Rev. Robert Layton. He used to walk out from St. Paul and would often come for nourishment to our home.

In 1936, after we were settled in the new house Fred and Mr. Schaper had built for us, my Mother decided to have the United Church Minister out to bless the house. We invited all the neighbors and we had a memorable social evening, with the Rev. John Collett to say the blessing.

Although the services were few and far between, they were appreciated very much by us all. To know that we were not entirely forgotten and overlooked meant a lot to us.

One fall the Rev. Fr. Le Clainche o.m.i. drove through our place on his way to visit the Milton Gabrieau family. He stopped to visit with my Mother and I can remember how pleased she was that he said a little prayer with her and blessed her.

EARLY CATHOLIC CHURCH SERVICES:

by Emelia Yaremko

The first immigrants started to come into the Lac Bellevue district as early as 1906.

When the people emigrated to Canada in search of a better life, they did not bring much with them. After they had built shelters, the men had to find work wherever they could. While the settlers were working to get some cash or cultivating the land, their living conditions were also improving. Wives and children were brought over from the old country. Young eligible bachelors living here married. Families began to grow larger.

The settlers, being good religious people, wanted to have mass said to them, receive the sacraments and have their children baptized. There was not a single priest residing in the whole district.

After some time, Father Wynyk was sent to serve the people. He was one of the first Ukrainian priests to visit the district. He said mass at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. John Berezanski.

Other masses were said at Lac Canard and Many Lakes School.



Church Services

1942, outside Mass was held at Mr. and Mrs. Gerhard Hovelkamp's farm. At that time the St. Boniface Society was active, members of the society were mainly of German origin. Friends and neighbors from miles around attended the service and gathering after.

Father Meunier was the officiating priest, some of the families who attended with their children were: Hovelkamp, Lucken, Makowecki, Linkiewich, Gadowski, Siemers, Seager, Thoben, Ortman, Lanferman, Rump, Terre, Kessler, Laboucane, Calliou, Schulmiesters, Scheper, Willer, Malek, Houzenberger, Kotowich, Ostropolski, Gosselin, Shock, Krissa, Milan.



Catechism Class (1937) at the Berezanski's place. Father Wynkyk and a young priest on Communion Day.

From about 1935, Father Rejgusiak, a Polish priest, was assigned to look after the spiritual needs of the people in the Lac Bellevue District. Father would visit the district at least once a month or once in two months depending on circumstances.

Even though more frequent visits would have been welcomed, lack of transportation prevented it. Farmers, like Nick or Frank Linkiewich, Tony Ostropolski or Malek would bring Father Rejgusiak to the district to say Mass. They would travel in a heavy farm wagon, or a sleigh drawn by horses. The trip from Flat Lake to Lac Bellevue was about 25 miles. The roads were trails winding around the sloughs. With those farm horses, it took a long time to reach the destination. In wet weather, travel was slow and tiresome.

Father Rejgusiak would arrive Saturday evening at the chosen place of residence, usually at Nick Linkiewich's and a couple of times at Frank Link-

iewich's, Tony Ostropolski's and Malek's. The priest would stay overnight and say Mass the following morning.

On Sunday, in the forenoon, one farmer's wagon after another, or on foot, the old and young would arrive to hear the Mass.

At all these services, the people were happy to sing and pray as they were used to doing in the old country.

After mass, the Sunday visitors would share a delicious dinner prepared by the lady of the house. This was also a great social event — the sharing of events of the weeks.

Father would spend Sunday night there as well. Monday morning he was driven back. Sometimes a stop in St. Paul would save a trip to Flat Lake. Father would meet a Flat Lake farmer and ride back to his residence. Likewise, Father would hitchhike from Flat Lake to St. Paul whenever he wanted to come to Lac Bellevue.



First Communion in the Berezanski's house. Conducted by Father Wynnyk, 1934.



Church Service in the
Berezanski's House about 1935
— Father Wynnyk.

In stormy weather, Father Rejgusiak would have to spend from 2 to 3 days, up to a week at the farmer's place. The priest was always welcomed. The people had a strong will and good faith in God.

In 1950, Father Rejgusiak left the St. Paul area. Living conditions had improved and the farm people travelled to St. Paul to hear mass at the church.

BEAUVALLON FERRY

The history of the Beauvallon Ferry dates back to approximately 1932. At this time there was a great demand for an easier method to ford the river at the rapids, located west of the ferry site. This was only possible when the water level of the river was low enough to allow people to safely cross.

Going south from the Beauvallon Ferry, the road led to an intersection on Highway 45, located 1½ miles west of the town of Beauvallon. The road going north of the the ferry went close to the west side of Lac Bellevue, leading past Beela School, the National Hall and branching off to the west to Lafond, and north-east to St. Paul.

Moses Downey was the original operator of the Beauvallon Ferry. Moses spent more years operating the ferry than any of the other ferrymen. Following his retirement, he was replaced by William Zawalusky for a period of one year. Harry Taschuk followed by Fred Popowich, were the next ferrymen. Steve Trach then held the operator's position for a one-year period. After Fred retired, Bill Kostyniuk spent one year operating the ferry. The last operator of the ferry was Mike Popowich. Mike spent the summers of 1957 and 1958 behind the controls. The operators did not work with the aid of an assistant. Living quarters were provided for the ferryman and his family on the banks of the river at the ferry site.

Before becoming an operator, Mike Popowich worked as a ferry repairman. His job was to tar, repair and launch ferries. Mike proudly related a

unique way of crossing the river by boat at times when ice blocked the opposite landing berth. With only a twenty foot pole to propel him he would stand at the back of the boat, and quickly push himself across at an angle into the current. A great deal of skill and balance was required to accomplish to cross with the ferry. It was hand operated and travelled along the top cable. The general public were restricted from using it since it was designed only for hauling repairmen across during times of emergency.

The spring of 1956 was an especially busy one for ferry repairmen. That year an unusual amount of ice accumulated on the banks of the river due to the large amounts of snow experienced during the winter. Banks of ice 25 feet high blocked the approaches to the ferry. A total of about \$4,500.00 was spent to remove the ice off the landing berths before the ferry could be launched.



Beauvallon Ferry, Mr. Downey the operator 1945.

During slack times of operation, tricks were often played as a form of entertainment. Mike Popowich recalls one trick he played on two of his friends, Bill Rudkowsky and Billy Popowich. Mike's friends knew that he was a good swimmer, and it did not surprise them when he dived off the west



Spring of 1956 with the unusually large accumulation of ice. Here we see some of the men hired to clear the berths. Front row: left to right: Stanley Sikorski, Paul Kostyniuk, Ludwig Worobec, Bill Tymchuk, Metro Worobec, Ludwig Berezanski, Second row: Wm. Kostyniuk, top: Mike Popowich.

side of the ferry. They expected him to come up shortly, but he didn't. Being an adept swimmer, and having a thorough knowledge of the structure of the ferry, Mike swam under the ferry and came up to hide safely under the east side of the ferry that normally housed the motor. Meanwhile, his friends on top couldn't see him and in a state of panic, frantically began searching the river for him. When Mike thought they had been fooled long enough, he climbed aboard and shouted, "I'm here". They laugh about this incident to this day.

When the original ferry got too old, a new one was constructed at the site. This one could haul a maximum of six cars, or two teams of horse-drawn wagons. The ferry itself never had a motor. To set this ferry in motion, the ferry operator had to manually tighten the steering cable, causing the ferry to tilt. The force of the current pushing against the angles of the runners under the ferry caused the ferry to move forward. The top cable held the ferry on course, preventing it from drifting away downstream. The ferry could cross the river quite quickly, due to rapidly flowing water at this site.

A switch for a bell was placed on each bank to alert the ferryman when someone wanted to cross.

This was especially useful at night. People crossing after midnight were obliged to pay twenty-five cents per vehicle, whether motor or horse-drawn, and ten cents per passenger.

Once the roads were dry from the spring thaw, and the spring planting was finished, the ferry was quite busy. Mid-summer was the busiest time of the year since people had more free time for leisure travel and berry picking, a then, popular event. Many of the settlers from the north side of the river hauled their grain to Beauvallon, where it could be sold.



Beauvallon Ferry at its berth on the north bank Photographed during the summer of 1955.

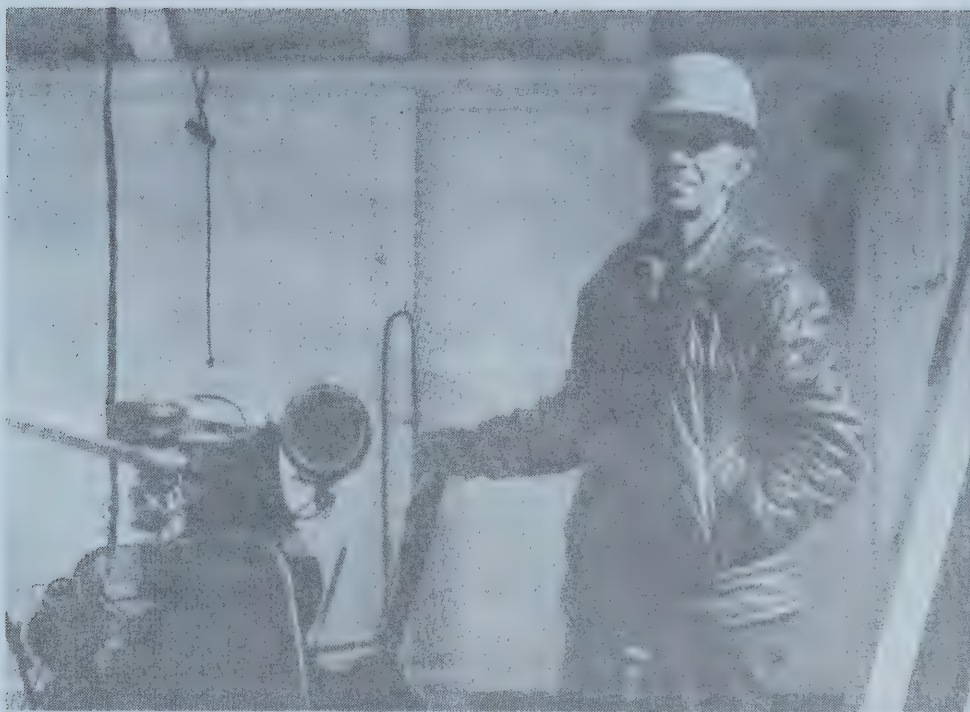
The forming of the community pasture on the south side of the river created a decrease in the amount of traffic crossing the river. Fewer people now lived on the south side of the river. Small access roads were closed, since no one was using them. These factors eventually brought about the closing of the ferry in 1958.

Since the closure of the Beauvallon Ferry, the ferry itself was brought downstream to replace the old Myrnam Ferry. This moving of the ferry was done under the skillfull operation of Fred Popowich. It remained here until 1970. This ferry is now on display at the Ukrainian Heritage Village located on Highway 16 east of Edmonton. Many old memories can be rekindled by seeing it once again.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE MYRNAM FERRY

by George Boratynec

In the early days the North Saskatchewan River posed a barrier for the people living in the communities north and south of it. Travel across the river was possible only during the winter season when the river was frozen solid. Summer travel was possible across the river at the Hopkins and Brosseau Ferries. This meant, of course, extra miles of travel. It was very tiring and frustrating for the early pioneers travelling in wagons, on horses, or on foot. Therefore, it was a joy when in 1914 the North of



NO MORE SAILING FOR GEORGE BORATYNEC

Much as he enjoyed the romance of "sailing" the Myrnam ferry the past 17 years, George Boratyniec is quite content to retire after the Myrnam Bridge is opened to traffic October 14th. One of his last times at the controls.

Myrnam Ferry (later called the Myrnam Ferry) came into existence. It was built at the ferry crossing site.

Normally the ferry was in operation 24 hours a day, but during the spring break-up, fall freeze-up, strong winds or high water, the ferry did not operate. Wagons, horses and pedestrians used this ferry service. Mr. Nick Bodnar the first ferry operator, supervised the crossings as the ferry was allowed to drift across on the pull of the current against their cables. (Little did the people know that this method of crossing would be in existence for 56 years.)

During those times when the ferry was not in service, early pioneers met emergencies by getting across on a cable chair. Not everyone enjoyed this kind of trip, but the elements made it necessary. This was later replaced by a "bird cage" riding on a cable high over the river. Up to 5 passengers could be transported at a time.

The coming of the ferry provided employment for many men. To the best of my recollection, these were the men who operated the ferry from 1914 to 1954. (My apologies if I have forgotten to mention someone's name.) The ferry operators were Nick Bodnar, George Hultash, a fellow from Beauvallon whose name I have forgotten, Mr. Prill, Mr. Bohaychuk, Mr. Lockton, Onesim Lakusta, Mr. Lutick, Sam Seganiuk, Charlie Krankowsky, Joe

Lecopoy, Bill Zacharuk, and Pete Tymofichuk. In the early 1950's the ferry became motorized. This shortened the crossing time to approximately 3 minutes from the 10-15 minutes previously.

It was in 1954 that I, with 3 years ferry experience on the Elk Point Ferry, came to operate the Myrnam Ferry. At this time there was a change from a three-man to a two-man operation. I was the ferry foreman with an assistant, Bill Zacharuk.

The ferry operated 24 hours a day — toll-free crossing from 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 midnight. From midnight to 8:00 A.M. a toll charge was in existence — 50 cents a vehicle including the driver plus 10 cents per passenger. This "pocket" money wasn't such a big "tip" when one considers being awakened at all hours of the night. This was especially true on the weekend when the young people were around for dances and parties which extended into the wee hours of the morning. My assistant and I agreed to work 24-hour shifts. Having a day off gave me a chance to farm along with operating the ferry.

Ferry operating was a very trying but rewarding experience. There were rules and regulations that had to be abided by. We used every precaution to make sure the ferry was wharfed up to its landing and securely tied before the restraining cables were unlocked and I gave my wave for the driver to either



Crossing North Saskatchewan River during spring breakup Myrnam crossing. T.C. Ashworth and Steve Demchuk built this one man pulley car and one would ride at his own risk — 1940??

proceed on or off the ferry. We depended upon the courtesy of our patrons to abide by the rules and regulations. However, much to my annoyance and fear for the safety of others, I can recall instances when some foolhardy people would try to make my job difficult by ignoring them. Fortunately, these people were in the minority.

The ferry could not cross when the river was too hazardous (high waters or during high winds). There were those patrons who demanded to cross in spite of these dangers. I never did let them cross and they would leave in anger, mumbling under their breath. I turned away many an angry patron but it eased my mind that because I did, the possibility of an accident was prevented. I'm proud to say that during my time as ferry operator there were no accidents.

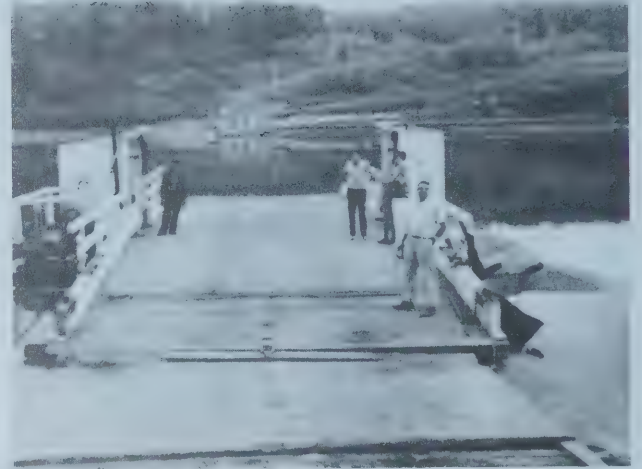


Cage used in ferrying people across the river on cable.

I had to operate the cage when the river was too hazardous to cross before the spring thaw and in the fall before freeze-up. This was not one of my favorite jobs but one that was crucial; not only because of emergencies but also because the high school students who attended school in Myrnam. This meant 2-3 trips twice a day for school students alone (up to 5 passengers per trip). Some of the students dreaded this trip as much as I did, however, there were those who marvelled at this means of

transportation. It was particularly scary and dangerous during high winds.

Operating the ferry was a lonely job. When travel was slack, I would retreat to my little shack (built on the north bank of the river) and drink coffee, read, play solitaire, and watch through my window for coming traffic. I didn't like to keep my patrons waiting. When I was asleep, I was awakened by the toot of the car horn and later by a bell.



Ferry is wharfed and ready to load vehicles. Operator George Boratynec on left.

I had many assistants from the time I started in 1954 until I retired in 1970. These men all worked very hard and help ease my work load. After my first assistant, Bill Zacharuk, retired, there were others who replaced him — Bill Tymofichuk, Joe Tymofichuk, and Alex Yakimowich. Nick Tymofichuk and Nick Onyschuk helped out in emergency situations and on Sundays when traffic was heaviest. Like me, these men farmed in Lac Bellevue and Lake Eliza area. I am very thankful for the help these men gave.

In 1970 when I had an accident, Alex Yakimowich took my place as foreman of the ferry with Charlie Krankowsky as his assistant. After about a 5 month leave I returned and operated the ferry with Alex Yakimowich who worked the longest with me as an assistant ferry operator.

The last two weeks of the ferry's operation I worked alone until its last run on October 14, 1970, when the new Myrnam bridge was officially opened to traffic. Nearing the age of 70 and having spent the last 20 years working on a ferry, I was ready to retire. The last trip for the Myrnam Ferry carried dignitaries in four vintage cars escorted by the R.C.M.P. Today, this ferry rests on display at the Ukrainian Heritage Village near Elk Island Park.

LAC BELLEVUE POST OFFICE

by Russ Paziuk



The Lac Bellevue Post Office and Store as it looked during its operation.

The Lac Bellevue Post Office was established on the Louis Noel farms in the year 1916-1917. It was operated firstly by Louis Noel till 1943, then its operation was passed down to Louis' son, Sam. The building was located on the north east shore of Lac Bellevue Lake, not more than fifty yards from the waters edge.



Photo taken during the fire, that eventually eliminated the service to the community.

This Post Office was operated until the late 40's, when fire destroyed the building. With better roads in the area, travel over longer distances became more prevalent by the residents of this rural community. Because of the above mentioned and the fact that more and more people began leaving the area, the contract to continue the mail service in the Lac Bellevue community, was not renewed by the Federal Government.

LAC BELLEVUE HALL

by Julia Petruk

By 1920 almost every quarter section of land in the Lac Bellevue community was settled and a need for a community gathering place became evident. Until this time, community functions were held in local residences and as the rural population grew, the houses of that time became too small to



First community Hall in Lac Bellevue built on a hill across from the present location. Was moved to present site in 1925.

accommodate larger gatherings such as weddings, socials, etc. Thus, in 1923 a local resident, Mr. Walter Bayrok donated about an acre of land for the purpose of building a community hall.

In 1924 the first hall was built on a site opposite its present day location. It was small but the people from the surrounding area had a recreation place for the first time. Soon they put on concerts, plays, box socials and meetings for all to enjoy. The large picture submitted within was taken of the first big concert held in the hall in 1928. It is interesting to note that most of those people who participated in that concert were very instrumental in the building of this community center.



1948 — Reconstruction of the AUUC Hall at Lac Bellevue.

In 1929, the hall was found to be too small to accommodate the large gatherings, therefore it was decided that it be moved to a level site across the road and expanded. With donated help, and the guidance of the local hall association board members, the task of moving the building across the road and rebuilding it began. Mr. Mike Gadowski donated three acres of his farm land to the hall organization, The Farmers And Labour Temple Organization, which later became known as The Association of United Ukrainian Canadians for this purpose.

One event that attracted much attention and would be attended by hundreds of people, from the immediate community and surrounding areas were the July 12 Picnics. This annual event began sometime in the mid 30's and continued into the early 60's.

A unique item in the hall was a stage curtain installed in about 1935 and painted by a Mr. Haf-



Concert held at Lac Bellevue Hall in 1928. These were some of the people of the Lake Bellevue community instrumental in building of the hall. They held concerts, plays, and in earlier years the hall was used as an institution for learning. By the mid 20's, Lac Canard and Henley schools were built and teachers, William Taresio, William Buck would use the hall to teach our pioneers the language. Boys top row: Bill Sydorchuk, John Petruk, Mr. Buck, Louis Halina, Bill Yuschyshyn, Nick Paziuk. Standing: George Boratynec, Helen Lukenchuk, Mrs. George Fakas, Mary Petruk, Julia Gadowski, Ema Halina, Jenny Petruk, Martha Bayrak, Mrs. Bill Halina, Annie Halina. Sitting Or Kneeling: Rosie Gadowski, Dan Halina, Geo Fakas, Andre Petruk, Joe Halina, Bill Taresio, John Halina, Bill Halina, Wm's son, Bill Halina, Tom Petruk, Walter Bayrak, Maclean Gadowski.



School concert, Henley School children held at Lac Bellevue Hall 1928. Mr. Buck, teacher. Note Hall was located across the road from the present site (on hill).



Aerial view of the Lac Bellevue Hall as it stands today.

fiuk. Advertising spots were sold for five to ten dollars with proceeds used for maintaining the facility. It is still in the hall with visitors questioning its origin even today.

Some of the early family names that stand out in my mind as being very actively involved in the building and operation of the center before the 1920's are Halina, Petruk, Gadowski, Paziuk, Eskow, Makowecki, Linkiwick, Boratynec, Snaychuk, Kaszefski, Yuschyshyn, Bayrak, Fakas.

LAC BELLEVUE FASTBALL CLUB

by Jerry Petruk:

Beginning with the early thirties and proceeding up to the early sixties, the farming community of Lac Bellevue and surrounding areas had limited



Photo 1958 Lac Bellevue Fastball Club — Winners of the Glendon Hotel Trophy and first prize in the 12-team fastball tournament held July 12/58. Standing: Stanley Aksenchuk, Ronald Krissa, Stanley Sikorski, John Zalaski, Steve Petruk, Ed. Sikorski, Ray Kotowich. Front row: Johnny Rawluk, Mike Kotowich, Jerry Petruk, Roy Hawreluk.

forms of recreation. Dances, pie and box socials, drama concerts, bazaars and picnics were the popular forms of entertainment.

An attraction at the picnics other than the races, would be the softball games. This, very often generated a lot of interest in the community and became a very competitive sport as the years progressed. With the community being well-knit and populated, it wasn't too difficult to recruit a sufficient number of boys to organize themselves into a team. With some of the earlier teams, probably the skills of the game weren't all there (equipment and facilities were minimal) but the boys on the various teams more than made up for that by their "competitive spirit." It was fun and entertaining.

During the late forties, more and more people in the community possessed automobiles. This, of course, meant the ball club was now able to travel to other communities and match talents in this popular sport. The surrounding and distant communities soon found that our clubs were not to be taken too lightly. The boys did well and certainly won their share in prizes and trophies. However, winning wasn't everything. Good sportsmanship (win or lose) was always emphasized.

One of the more competitive teams was organized in 1961. Members of the club included: Ed Sikorski (catcher), Roy Hawreluk (pitcher), Jim Conrad (first base), Jerry Petruk (second base), Ray Kotowich (third base), Mike Kotowich (shortstop), Albert Boratynec (left field), Ron Krissa (center field), Orest Markowski (right field), Ray Zacharuk (utility out fielder). Of the eleven tournaments the club competed in that year, the club came out on top in seven of them and second in three others. The highlight was winning a couple sixteen-team tournaments. A lot of experience was gained from playing some teams from the top Edmonton divisions. The calibre of play provided by the local boys

indicated that we weren't really that far out of our league.

It might be of interest to include some family names who had boys interested in this game during the 1930's to 1960's. They are: Aksenchuk, Bagan, Berezanski, Borchuk, Boratynec, Burak, Conrad, Fodchuk, Gadowski, Halina, Hawreluk, Harnatiuk, Hancheruk, Kasefski, Kotowich, Krankowsky, Krissa, Krys, Lakusta, Makowecki, Markowsky, Onyschuk, Ostropolski, Paziuk, Petruk, Poloway, Rawluk, Sikorski, Tymchuk, Tymofichuck, Worobec, Yuschyshyn, Zacharuk, Zaharko, Zalaski.

With urbanization steadily increasing during the sixties, it became more difficult to organize rural communities. However, several members from the 1961 club did continue to play in Edmonton and elsewhere in the province.

LAC BELLEVUE COMMUNITY RECREATION ASSOCIATION

by Nick Zacharuk:

In January 1980 a meeting was held at Lac Bellevue Hall to form the Lac Bellevue Community Recreation Association. Membership fees of \$2.00 a couple were collected. Presently there are 100 members. On February 25, 1980, the Association was registered with Consumer and Corporate Affairs under the Societies Act. Our first project is leasing 20 acres of land on the south east tip of Lac Bellevue Lake for recreation purposes, camping, fishing, picnicking, etc. It is the plan of the Association to get this land cleaned so as to accommodate different groups later. The location is situated on part of N.E. 31-55-9-W4.

The Board consists of: Nick Zacharuk, President; John Harris, Vice-President; Edna Tymchuk, Secretary-Treasurer. Directors are: Lloyd Yaremko, Nick Onyschuk, Mike Popowich, Nick Tymofichuk, Nettie Tymko, Alice Tymofichuk, and Ronald Petruk.



1981 Board of Directors of Lac Bellevue Community Recreation Association. Front Row: Nettie Tymko, Edna Tymchuk, Nick Zacharuk, Alice Tymofichuk, Back Row: Lloyd Yaremko, Nick Onyschuk, Mike Popowich, Nick Tymofichuk, John Harris, missing Ronald Petruk.

STONEY LAKE HALL

by John Drobot

The first organizational meeting held to establish the community hall at Stoney Lake was held in 1940. It was a real challenge to the residents of the area as there were no funds of any sort available, cash was hard to come by and small donations by people in the community and the sponsoring of dances, etc. at Armistice and Elk Point kicked the Project off. About 15 area residents cut logs, squared them at a small sawmill and hired a carpenter Waldemar Bergstrom, an expert axeman. The carpenter donated many hours of his time and this along with almost everyone in the community donating labor, made the building of this community center possible. Walter Piotrowski was secretary for many years followed by John Kiss. John Drobot and Walter Piotrowski are the only two original hall members still remaining in the organization. This fine community spirit still prevails in the community which has been the home of many picnics, rodeos, and fast ball tournaments. Proceeds from these are used to further community activities.

Neighboring ball clubs, riding clubs as well as other community and benevolent organizations, have used this facility for fund raising. It is one of the last rural establishments to operate in the country with no large sponsoring organization to back it up. The present membership is determined to carry on the tradition handed down by the original members to provide a community service to the area. The very successful homecoming held in 1980 has convinced the members that a revival of the annual Stoney Lake Farmer's Day picnics are a must.

The first family picnics at Stoney Lake were held in the early 1920's and were social gatherings for the homesteaders' families who travelled for many miles by wagons, buggies, horseback and on foot. Lunches and dinners were shared with others and families combined their food baskets for this annual festive occasion. Later ladies' organizations, ball clubs and Farmer's Union locals sponsored these picnics.

The following newspaper clipping was taken from an Edmonton paper whose reporter was impressed with the calibre of the picnic and the entertainment provided.

STONEY LAKE PICNIC

ON

FARMERS' DAY FRIDAY, JUNE 14TH

PROGRAM STARTS AT 12 O'CLOCK NOON

BIGGER AND BETTER THAN EVER BEFORE

MEN'S 4-TEAM FASTBALL TOURNAMENT

GUEST SPEAKER

WOMEN'S NOVELTY RACES

CHILDREN'S RACES OF ALL KINDS

FEATURE ATTRACTION

THE STONEY LAKE TRAIL RIDERS

LARGE WESTERN PARADE CLOWNS IN ATTENDANCE WESTERN MUSICAL SHOW
FREE PONY RIDES FOR CHILDREN SADDLE HORSE RACES MANY OTHER HORSE RACES
STAKE and POTATO RACES COWGIRL'S BARREL RACES Cowboy's Bucking Barrel Competition
RELAY RACES TRICK and FANCY ROPING ACTS Boy's Wild Sheep Milking Contest

Refreshment Booth On Grounds

Wonderful camping grounds, fishing, boating. Come early. Bring your family and friends for a real old-time get-together. Everyone is welcome.

BIG DANCE AT NIGHT

MUSIC BY BUCK SWAN and his Happy Hillbillies
Sponsored By The Swedeboro FUA Local 155

The Story of Stony (or Stoney) Lake

On one of the walls in our Central Office hang two maps of Alberta. You can call them large. One is about 8 ft. by 5 ft., and the other about 6 x 4 ft. There seems to be enough space to mark every hamlet, or about every farm. When we started looking for Swedeboro and Stony Lake, the two maps were of no help to us. We couldn't find them. A reference book had to be used, and even then only Stony Lake was mentioned. Swedeboro wasn't in it. And it is about these two places we want to write. Not to make too great a demand on your and our own geographical knowledge of Alberta, Swedeboro and Stony Lake are near Armistice, which is roughly 15 miles southeast of St. Paul.

With all that geographical trouble nobody can accuse us of playing favorites when we write a few lines about the Farmers' Day picnic, organized by the Swedeboro FUA local. There have been many of these picnics on June 14, from the 49th parallel up to far north in the Peace River Country.

We were unable to visit them all, nor would there be any reason to start comparing one with the other, as there is no measuring stick available. Therefore, let's take this one at Stony Lake, as one of the many, but perhaps somewhat more than many.

500 Happy People

Not all heads were counted. It is a very safe guess, however, that an odd 500 hats would have been needed to cover all the luscious hair growth and the bald pates. That's a very good crowd. You may have never heard of Stony Lake (that's the way it's spelled in the reference book, though the posters spelled it Stoney Lake) but it wasn't hard to find for those who wanted to go there on June 14. A large number of markers along the roads kept anyone from going astray.

The Scarlet Ones

The members of the picnic committee all wore scarlet shirts. They were easy to spot, and anyone wanting information didn't have any trouble locating one of them. They, and picnic manager John Drobot, did a terrific job in preparing this picnic and keep everything going.

Our Hat Goes Off

The poster announced that it would be bigger and better than ever before. We don't know anything about "before." This picnic, however, was splendid. Everything the poster announced was there and it was all exceptionally well organized. We take our hat off for the people in the Swedeboro area.

Mr. Paul Babey, Beaverdam, member of the FUA executive, officially opened the picnic. As Mr. Johnson, an old time resident of the district, had just passed away, all 500 people stood two minutes in silence.

The End Of The Page

This is a short story of one of the many picnics organized on Farmers' Day. Some of them may have been of the same high calibre or even higher than the one at Stony Lake. We wrote about this one, because a choice had to be made, and it showed so well what can be done when farmers really want to do something. Also, it proved there is lots of talent available. Some digging and and some organizing will bring it to the surface, shining, as it did at Stony Lake, where local talent filled the whole program.

STONEY LAKE FAST BALL CLUB

by Andrew Pearson

The Stoney Lake Fast Ball team started in the summer of 1955.

Lake Eliza Ball Club did not have enough players to make a team so a few players joined with Stoney Lake and formed a ball team. The same players stayed together for quite a number of years.

As years went by, some of the players moved away, younger players replaced them.

This ball team played in quite a number of ball tournaments in the area, some of the places were Elk Point, Willow Range, Green Lawn, Derwent, Myrnam, Musidora, Morecambe, Flat Lake, Glendon and Lac Bellevue, and the ball club carried on in this manner until 1965, then the team dissolved.



Stoney Lake Ball Club 1957. Back Row L-R: Steve Krankowsky, Fred Wirsta, Henry Gancer, Peter Mistol, Ed Boratynec. Front Row L-R: Marshal Boratynec, Mike Drobot, Ludwig Charniawsky, Andrew Pearson.

In the summer of 1973, a new ball club started up; they were called Stoney Lake Stampeders and this team operated until 1976; some of these players moved from the area and a few are playing with a St. Paul Ball Club.

In 1980, Stoney Lake had its home coming celebration including a ball tournament. Three ball teams were entered and these were St. Paul, Elk Point and a team from Edmonton. Most of the players that started the ball club in 1955 were there and got a team together and played.

Stoney Lake lost in the final game; 21 to 24 to the team from Edmonton but it was wonderful to be able to play as old timers once more.

STONEY LAKE STAMPEDE

by John Drobot

"Stoney Lake Stampede Revived with Gusto", was the 1963 headline in the St. Paul Journal. Because of the interest shown by people in the surrounding areas for this type of entertainment and the enthusiastic support by Elk Point and St. Paul businessmen who donated valuable trophies, the rodeo became an annual event. The first corrals, pens and chutes were built by ten local stockmen who donated their time and talent and even had their wives peeling fence rails. They were laughed at for their pains, but were determined to make this show a success. At that time, rodeos were not as common a sport as today. The first year some horses were supplied by stampede members, but most were wild mountain ponies captured by Vern Franklin in the Rocky Mountains during heavy snowfalls. The sight of these wild bucking, chute fighting, squealing brutes was worth the price of admission alone. The wild steer cart race, a Stoney Lake Spectacular, was won by local cowboys: Leonard Demchuk, Orest Drobot and Ken Demchuk, for many years and had such spectator appeal that trophy donors vied with each other to sponsor this event. The event was later modified because of the danger to spectators as carts were demolished and broken shafts came crashing through the fence. The site of the Stoney Lake arena was later moved across the creek to its present location, picked for its picturesque setting. Today, bleachers, page wire fencing, steel corrals and chutes are all part of the modern set up. Although rodeos have sprung up all over the countryside, the Stoney Stampede, as it is now called, still provides a color and character of its own that cannot be duplicated. This feature, plus the large camping area, wonderful scenery and fishing at the lake, make it an annual pilgrimage for families and contestants who camp out and relax while waiting for the show to begin.



Typical rodeo scene at Stoney Lake 1966.

The first Stampede Association members consisted of: John Drobot, president, John Kiss, Secretary, and Directors: Walter Piotrowski, Spike Yakimowich, Mike Drobot Jr., Ed Boratynec,



Scenes like these attract hundreds of people to this annual event.

Gunther May, Steve Y. Demchuk, Steve Drobot and Ed Piotrowski. The original ten were later joined by Joe Tymofichuk, Len Demchuk, Orest Drobot, Don Demchuk, Jim Bergstrom and Dave Lawrence. Len Demchuk is now the Stampede President and Don Demchuk the hard-working rodeo secretary. These Stampede Association members have, through the years, ridden in many parades and community celebrations. Their colorful mounted drill and flag bearing performance have won them much admiration from the general public.

In the earlier years, rodeo stock was supplied by the Drobot Bros., Ed Piotrowski, Spike Yakimowich, Steve Demchuk and other stampede members. Rodeo contractors have been Stan Boychuk, Vern Franklin and Les Trach. The "Grey Ghost", an infamous huge bucking horse, owned by John Drobot, was a feature attraction in his "hey-day" during the 1960's. Later, this horse was rented out by John to rodeo contractor Boychuk and performed at many rodeos in northern Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. After 5 years of throwing riders, the great horse quit at a rodeo at Dauphin, Manitoba and never bucked again!! Taken from an article in the Journal in 1967, it states: "The Grey Ghost, Phantom of the stampedes, again unseated his rider in a few seconds flat, his specialty a high jump and a teeth jarring jolt as he hits the ground. He rears high in the air and has a corkscrew turn, reversing himself completely, making it impossible for any rider to stay on his back." Another great buck, a pitch black horse called Lacombe, was owned by Ed Piotrowski of Stoney Lake.

Gilbert Reguena, from Paris, France, visiting relatives, became so fascinated by rodeos and cowboys that he came out of the chute at Stoney on a wild Highland-Brahma cross bull. He was injured and this won him acclaim in an Eastern Canadian newspaper.

The National Film Board, in 1966, filmed a documentary of the Stoney Stampede. In 1964, T.V.'s actor, Hoss Cartwright's double, was a feature attraction and almost everyone thought he was the real "Hoss".

In 1966, from the Montreal Forum, hockey stars Terry Harper, Mickey Redmand and Ernie Hickie took part in the stampede. They were entered in the wild cow milking and the steer cart race. In 1972, hockey instructors Ken Brown, Wayne Morusyk and Dave Krypko were participants in some of the events.



Steer cart race in 1963. Participants Mike Drobot Jr., Steve Drobot, Wally Siemers.

Ten years after its revival, in 1973, the Edmonton Journal had this to say about the Stoney Stampede:

"The eleventh Annual Lake Stampede was kicked off in grand style, with Ron Barwick and the Elk Point majorettes and junior band performing in the arena, prior to the entry of a mounted drill by the Stoney Lake Association members. Flags representing every province in Canada, including Yukon and the Northwest Territories, were carried in by mounted riders in matched costumes and riding splendid horses. What a glorious sight! The colorful drill drew a standing ovation from the record breaking crowd gathered to witness one of the finest rodeos ever produced there. The new stampede ground location, the chutes and corrals were described by the contestants as among the best encountered in their circuit. The rodeo stock had riders hitting the dust thick and fast, making for a very thrilling afternoon. Located in a beautiful valley, with a large lake in the background, the new arena site is well planned with bleachers and a free trailer parking area. The rodeo events are

well planned for family entertainment, with rodeo in-field events, boy's and girl's calf and chicken scrambles, pony rides, etc. The rural atmosphere makes it an ideal place to greet old friends and meet new ones. The free pancake breakfast and the rodeo dance at night make this event a must on every tourist's itinerary!"



Secretary Don Demchuk presents trophy to best dressed cowgirl 1977. Notice the modern chutes in background; a proof of dedication and hard work by very active club.



L-R: A. Roy, County of St. Paul, Hon. J.D. Ross, Bud Klump, Jim Laramie.

achieved through purchase of privately owned lands, tax recovery and Crown lands situated in Townships 55 & 56, Ranges 9, 10 & 11.

A formal meeting with provincial government was held on March 6, 1970, at which time the St. Paul Grazing Association was formed. Elected members of the first executive were:

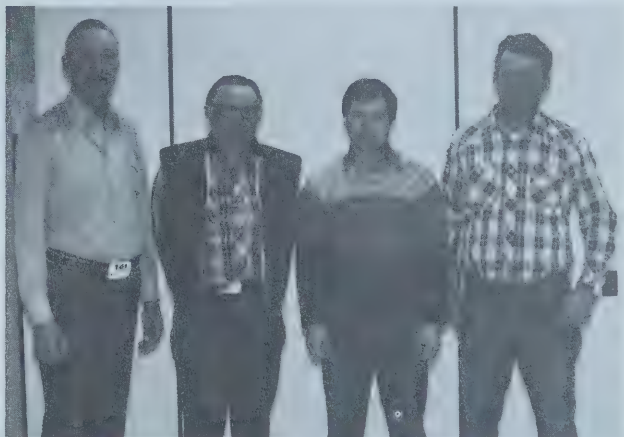
President	Ludwig Gadowski
Secretary-Treasurer	Raymond Desaulniers
Vice President	John Drobot
Directors	Sylver Chrapko
	Fred Vidiuk
	Steve Sribney
	Paul Dechaine

ST. PAUL PROVINCIAL GRAZING RESERVE

The formation of the St. Paul Grazing Reserve emanated from the initiative of local farmers to convert semi-arable low productive land to provide a community pasture. As a result of consultation with local people, municipal government and provincial government, approximately 123,000 acres was set aside in the early 1960's for development of a provincial grazing reserve. Land assembly was



Official Opening — July 31, 1970. L-R: L. Gadowski, President, Hon. J.D. Ross, Minister of Lands and Forests, Jim Laramie, Pasture Manager.

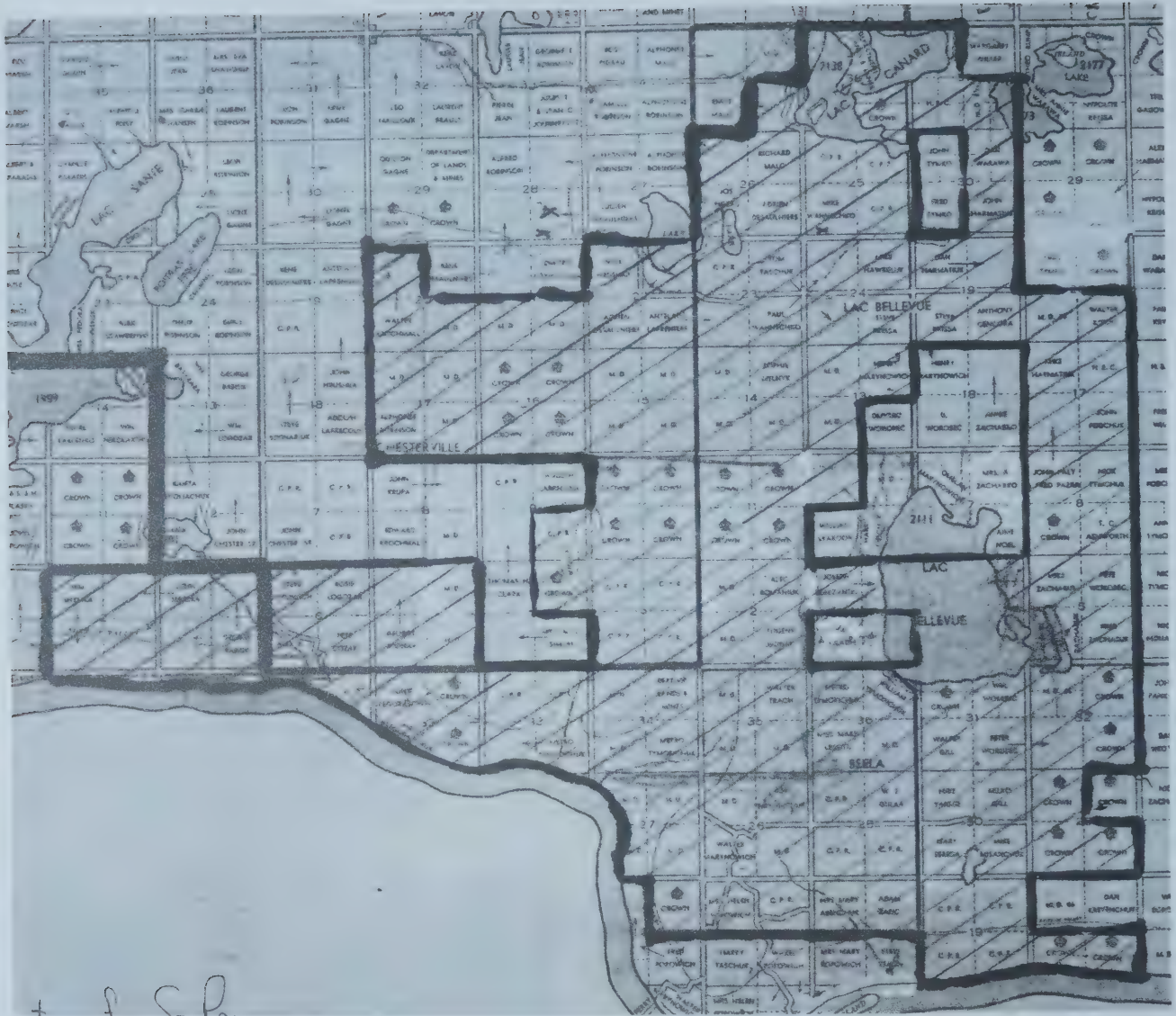


1981 — St. Paul Grazing Association Board of Directors. L-R: Wm. Tymofichuk, Ludwig Gadowski, Alcide Hurtubise, John Skawronski; Missing Fred Vidiuk.

On January 22, 1971, the St. Paul Grazing Association was incorporated under the Societies Act.

Although the Association was formed in 1970, some cattle were being grazed at the Reserve in 1969 under a Head Tax Permit.

The carrying capacity of the pasture increased from 225 head in 1969 to the present day 2600 head. In that period, approximately 16,000 acres of land



Map outlining boundaries of St. Paul Grazing Reserve 1981.



St. Paul Grazing assn. & St. Paul Region Grazing Reserve Staff. L-R:
Back Row: John Skawronski, Wm. Tymofichuk, George Willis
Supervisor of grazing reserves, Laurent Belland, Pasture Manager.
Front Row: Ludwig Gadowski, Alcide Hurtubise, Vivian
Rasmussen, Evelyn Kowtun.

was developed. It is anticipated that the pasture will continue its development in response to public demand.

Jim Laramie was appointed the first pasture manager in the spring of 1970, and remained in that capacity through 1973. Jim still works as a casual rider. In 1974, Laurent Belland was appointed as pasture manager. Laurent has previously worked for Jim on the pasture.

Laurent Belland remains the current manager and over the years has worked with the following riders: Roger Desaulniers, Lawrence Scheffelmiar, Vianney Girard, John Tattersal, Ken Clarke, Erie Hills and Victor Robinson.

The Present Executive of the St. Paul Grazing Association is:

President
Secretary-Treasurer
Directors

Ludwig Gadowski
Alcide Hurtubise
Fred Vidiuk

Wm. Tymofichuk
John Skawronski

The Belland family — Laurent, Bev and Jason — reside at pasture headquarters which was established in 1969 at the A. Lafrenière Homestead located at S.E. 22-56-10-W4th.

CATTLE UPGRADING PROGRAM IN THE 30's *by Russ Paziuk*

The depression years of the 30's brought about great economic hardships to the pioneers of our country. Herds of cattle that had been built up since their arrival to the land had been decimated by the need to sell. Furthermore, the cattle of that time, had not been of the best quality anyway. Crop failures and the shortage of money to purchase feed for their stock also contributed greatly to the depletion of the cattle herds in the communities. Those animals that were kept, gradually lost their good qualities through inbreeding.

To upgrade the cattle herds, the government decided on a plan where good quality bulls could be obtained by the area residents, for the purpose of rectifying the above mentioned problem. Clubs were formed in the communities and government bulls were distributed to these clubs. The policy was that 40 would constitute the number of cows required by the residents to form a club. The club would appoint one of its members as keeper, with the costs of keeping the animal pro-rated over the number of cows serviced by this bull. The keeper was also responsible for maintaining records of that club. After two years the bull could be exchanged for one from another club in the locality. This program continued until the late 30's when these bulls were turned back to the government. Some of these animals were purchased by the locals.

Interviews with area residents would indicate that there were probably five or six clubs in the Lac Bellevue community. Photo submitted shows the fine quality of animals used for this program.



Members of one of the local clubs. L-R: Peter Kurylyk, Adam Ziack, Dan Krevenchuk (keeper), Nick Cwyk.

WINTER TRAVEL

by R. Paziuk

Upon their arrival to Northern Alberta and the homesteads, our early pioneers soon realized the problems of travel that a hard Canadian winter could bring. Policing, or getting immediate medical help when snowdrifts became higher than fence lines became impossible using horses or conventional vehicles of that time.



Steve Demchuk car salesman and his snowmobile.

Out of this necessity was born a snow vehicle. A ½ track with skis mounted to a conventional car would derive speeds of up to 30 M.P.H. and maneuver over otherwise inaccessible terrain.

To our knowledge only several of these snow vehicles were built and used in our districts. One such vehicle was owned by T.C. Ashworth and Steve Demchuk. The other was built and operated by John Demchuk from Myrnam. A third vehicle was owned by Mr. Lapierre from St. Paul.

Later a propellor driven vehicle, called snow plane was manufactured by John Demchuk and was remembered as being the noisiest machine heard of at that time. It was not as dependable as the track machine, as there was no reverse and getting stuck with it would be quite prevalent.

The Demchuk machine hauled doctors to patients unable to be moved, and patients from the Myrnam area to the Elk Point hospital prior to Myrnam Hospital being built. Local police detachments sometimes hired his machine to haul their men in the line of duty.

Both the snow vehicle and the snow plane lived a very short life. Sometime before 1940 more sophisticated snow plowing equipment began appearing in the country, capable of opening the snow bound roads never possible to be done before. This became the death of these snow vehicles.



The Lapierre homemade snowmobile on the mail run 1925.

PICARD SAWMILL

by Raoul Picard

At Moose Hill we used our tractor for power. On our second year of sawing which was 10 miles north of Goodridge, a farmer loaned us his tractor, most of the lumber was for him. We also produced lumber for our cook shack, in the meantime we had our quarters in a trapper cabin.

In 1934 we bought the 84 H.P. steam engine from Harry Leaf who lived ten miles south of Elk Point. He was also a steam engineer. I paid \$400.00 for it. Harry Leaf and his son volunteered to drive the Steamer to our mill site north of Goodridge. This was in January. The first night we made it to Armistice in 55 below zero weather. On the 4th day we had above zero temperature. When we got close



Picard steam engine used in 1934 for sawmill in Goodridge.

to the river on the big hills, Paul Corbiere, with 2 teams of horses for additional power, helped us make the hill.

At this time we already had our license to operate the sawmill. We procured the license and permits from the department of Lands and Forest. The homesteaders paid only \$1.00 for 10,000 feet of lumber. To the other farmers 50¢ for 1000 feet. I, the owner, had to pay 20¢ a 1000 feet for compensation. In 7 years of operation we had no accidents.

We did custom sawing only for farmers, or those who had birth permits. All permits came from the department of Lands and Forests. Our crew to run the mill required five to six men. The first two years our engineer was Denis Bergeron. We had a flunky whose job was to split wood, and haul water for the steamer. It took 1300 gals a day to keep it going. Our site was by a spring, but sometimes we had to get it from other sources. Every farmer who wanted lumber had to furnish his fire wood for the steamer, when his turn came to saw their logs. This came about more or less first come first serve.

The third year we had Joe Cote for engineer, he was Chas William's father-in-law who now resided in St. Paul. I did most of the sawing myself. We also had a cantor whose job was to turn the logs on the carriage. The tail sawyer cleared the lumber from the saw. For cook, we had a wife and husband team. She cooked for our crew, and he would do odd jobs around the camp. We always had a good supply of firewood for the cook stove.

We usually moved to our sawmill in early December. Often we spent Christmas and New Years there. We bought our food in large quantities, since we couldn't get very much from the small stores. As for meat, we got that from local people, we had satisfactory deals. All the travelling was then done with horses, so we spared them as much as we could.



Picard Sawmill, the Goodridge area in 1939. The mill used to be the Garneau mill, used in the Moose Hill area in 1918. Log on carriage measured 24" from a 36" log. Mr. Poirier and Paul Tymko were two of the crew.

The farmers who came to the mill had to build their own shack, unless there happened to be empty ones, which could be used, also barns for their horses, hay and oats for the horses, and they all brought their grub box for the duration of their stay at the mill.

The logging was done solely with horses, the logs were cut by a team of two men with a cross cut sawing. The hours were long, everyone worked hard. For recreation there was a bit of wrestling, tricks played on each other, card playing. The moonshiner made his round on weekends to furnish his clientele.

We had a barn which once caught on fire, but the owner of the horses crawled in and saved his horses.

When the spring thaw came we sometimes had 40 teams waiting their turn to saw lumber, so as to haul it before the road got too soft.

The last two years my wife and daughter came. They did the cooking which included a lot of bread baking. We had friends not too far and did some visiting. Some of the farmers brought their wives along. We never had time to get lonely. The second year our cook shack burnt down so we had to rebuild it. We operated for seven years at Goodridge, and never had too many problems with the government and their inspectors who came around once in a while. One was McKay. In 1943, I sold the mill to a man by the name of Schallsbar. I set it up for him in Rich Lake. The last I heard they were sawing lumber for the Imperial Lumber Co. somewhere.

A few years later I sold the steamer to Noel & Blanchette for scrap. I sold it to them for \$115.00. A few months later I could have sold it to a museum in Saskatoon for \$800.00. It had been built in 1912 and had a high pressure boiler.

A TRIBUTE TO THE UKRAINIAN CANADIANS

by Russ Paziuk

Of the tens of thousands of Ukrainian pioneers who came to Canada at the turn of the century, only a small percentage were wealthy. These people envisioned Canada as a challenge, and came here with hopes of making a better life for themselves, and their families. Hope and courage would carry these determined people through the seasons of unemployment or near-starvation. Some were even considered "enemy aliens" during the War years, and a few were subjected to imprisonment. Little did the then Canadian Government know that these Europeans would become good citizens, a breed of people who cherished hard work, and who would be loyal to their new country, Canada.

Through all these bitter encounters, the Ukrainian people did not lose their drive to succeed, nor did they lose their cultural heritage. Their fun-loving ways and community spirit, above all else, were dominant through all their difficult times. Through song and dance, the culture of these people was preserved, and became very important in the multi-culturism of today in Canada.

Even though they experienced hardships because of a language barrier and the economics of the times, they carried on, determined to succeed alongside those Canadians here before them.

Documentation of the "two founding races" of Canada is written and appears everywhere. It is appropriate at this writing to recognize the contributions made to Canada by the so-called "third force": one being the Ukrainian Canadians. They played important roles in the development of their country by defending it with their blood in the two World Wars, to make this their homeland: a land for their children, grandchildren, and for future generations.



Opening the doors to politically oppressed people from the Austro-Hungarian Empire did much to expedite the development of the West. These people from central Europe did not disappoint the immigration officials of this country. They worked and learned and became good citizens; above all else, their livelihood was a matter of life and death, do or die.

Today, we look back at these people, their achievements and disappointments, and wonder what this great country would have been like without their input. We can ask ourselves about their financial accomplishments in the one hundred or so years they have been here, and conclude that they prospered.

But at what cost to themselves and their families? How did they feel about leaving their ancestral homes and family ties to seek a living in a strange and foreign land? These and other questions may best be answered only by some of those people. It is with regret that we have not preserved the history of those pioneers while they were still with us. The handful still living, and the older ones of the second generation, did much to have this history recounted in this book. Their memories will be treasured by us forever.

UKRAINIAN COSTUMES

by Shelley Lakusta

Ukrainian costumes originated in the villages of Ukraine. Today Canadians are conscious of knowing their heritage and are looking up customs and costumes. Costumes are a form of art, closely related to customs and traditions. Each village in the Ukraine had a different way of dressing and dancing.

The Hutzulski costume comes from the Hutzel mountains. This costume was made from wool because of the cold climate in that region. Womens'



Shelly in typical Paltanski costume. The headdress was worn by the wealthier people with the velvet jacket. This costume is very colorful in red and black on blouse, green jacket with gold trim, gold apron with colored embroidery, red, black and white shirt and red sox representing red boots.

slips were narrow and were worn slightly below the knees. Hutzulski dance steps were small and close together because their superstitious beliefs were that if they took too big steps, they would fall off the mountain. Some men were braver and took bigger steps. The women wore a plain slip with an over skirt like an apron hung from the waist, back and front the same. The blouses were embroidered in



This is a typical "hutzulski" costume worn by 16 year old Shelley Lakusta. She dances and teaches Ukrainian dancing in the Lake land area.

golds, browns, greens, and reds; all bright colors. They dyed their threads with onion skins and beet juice. The wool vest was heavily embroidered. You could identify a married woman from a single girl by the embroidery on her jacket.

Hutzel people were very proud of their attire. Often you would see them walking bare footed carrying their "pystulai" (leather moccasins laced and tied on the calf) so they wouldn't be damaged in any way for dancing. Men wore black hats with a braid made of wool. Women wore braided wool with a flower at each end. Some men wore sheep-skin jackets.

The Pultovski costume has a velvet jacket in green, wine, blue or black. These colors were dark, not by preference, but because only the dark colors were obtainable. Later when the dyes were obtainable the colors were brighter. The blouses were embroidered on the shoulder and some had motifs on the sleeves in reds, blacks, and wines. The skirt was just below the knee, opened in front, in a blue, green, or dark red weave pattern, with pom poms on each bottom corner. The slip was about two inches below the skirt with a strip of embroidery. They had an apron with embroidery on it. They wore red leather boots. On their heads they wore field flowers, poppies, daisies and cornflowers in

red, yellow, blue, and white with ribbon streamers hanging down the back. These were worn by the wealthier people. The poorer people wore the peasant costumes which were flowered skirts and slips worn below the knees. The slips as well as the white blouses were embroidered. These people danced barefooted. A ribbon was worn across their heads with a poppy on each side. The men wore baggy pants in colors of wines, greens, and blues with elastic at waist and ankles. The boots were black or red and shirts were solidly embroidered in manderin colors. The people that were prominent in the war wore velvet capes and cossack hats to complete their attire.



"Rasputin" in modern times. The vest he is wearing is an original sheepskin over 100 years old. The shoes are "poostalay" moccasins worn by the people from the Carpathian mountains.

In Bukovina, Horodenko, and Zalishchyky, the Ukrainian women wore ankle length white slips and white linen skirts. The sleeves were embroidered in rich dark colors with cotton or silk thread or beads. The married women wore sleeves embroidered solid to the wrists. Single girls wore blouses with only a wide embroidered strip on the shoulder. Over the slip was worn a woven wool wrap around skirt called a "horbothka". A long woven wool sash "poias" was wound several times around the waist and hung down the side or back. Sometimes they brought the front corner of the "horbothka" up, folded and tucked in under the poias at the side of the waist. A necklace of several strands of red coral was a traditional ornament. The wealthier people

wore five to six strands of beads or as many as they could afford. Their natural braided hair encircled with a wreath of flowers tucked in and tied with a silk ribbon at the back was their head dress. On their feet were worn black or brown leather boots.

The dress was part of the art of the Ukraine and was artistic imagination which combined utility and beauty. Ukrainian costumes were original, later influenced by neighbouring countries and people that were at war with the Ukraine. They used Indian silks, Persian and Italian brocades, French velvets, Greek designs and ornaments.

The costumes changed with the centuries. They became brighter in color and used factory materials. With our many Ukrainian dance clubs in Canada, we are succeeding to capture the originality of many a dress.

AS I REMEMBER (1945-1981) STORY BY RUSSEL PAZIUK

I was born in 1939, not long ago by any standards, but the changes in our way of life from when I could remember growing up in the Lac Bellevue community until today would be difficult for my children to comprehend. Maybe the next forty years will bring as great a change and maybe far greater, as technology and society's needs, greeds and ambitions prevail. With changes as great in the forty years I've witnessed in our society, I would shudder with fear if time could be turned back and I would be told that the train that hauls me from the port of Halifax has reached Edmonton, the end of the track, and I would next mount a crude raft type vessel that would take me some 100 miles east down the North Saskatchewan River, where I would dock and be sent to search for some piece of land in a strange area that would become my home. With only an axe for my possession, no money and a strange tongue, a simple existence would be a way of life for many years but we would be free of oppression.

It is because of these changes that I would like to write about my experiences of growing up in the Lac Bellevue District so as to show my children the difference a child experienced born in 1939 to a child born in the year 1980.

There was no television to watch and the one radio in the house was battery operated. As a six year old, I remember Wilf Carter and Hank Williams music to be losing its popularity and Bill Haley rock was setting a trend with the young population. Mind you, the radio was a seldom used commodity because we were told that extensive use of the radio would make the battery go down so we were fortunate to listen mostly after news broadcasts; that is if Dad forgot to turn it off. There was not enough money to waste on such fashion things as entertainment; running shoes and basic household commodities held priorities.

Anyway, it is 6:00 p.m. and I am told that choring time had arrived. Kada, my saddle pony, is caught and led beside a 3 foot high rail fence to make mounting easier, no saddle, and the twine used for reins is one piece to prevent being dropped from my hands. Locating the milk cows was not difficult because cow bells had been attached to the necks of several cows. Sounds of these ringing bells led me directly to where our two neighbors' cattle and ours had been pasturing. The homesteaders of earlier times had cleared small parcels of land here, there and everywhere and since their departure from the community, these so called vacant quarters created cheap pasturing for those residents living in the area. The procedure of pasturing this way continued for quite a few more years, with herding of milk cows twice daily to and from. This practice continued until farmers began expanding their operation by purchasing some of this vacant land.

Playthings and toys differed tremendously then and now. The wooden block with tobacco can lids nailed at one end and thread spools cut in half and nailed at the other made up a toy tractor. Very few were able to afford bought sleds, toboggans, etc. From skis to skates to whatever, we only had what was possible to be manufactured at home out of crude material at our disposal. It was some years later before Dad could buy us a pair of hand-me-down skates or a Gene Autry guitar worth at that time, about \$12.95.

I will never forget that September morning, in 1946. It was to be my first day of school. The thought of walking down the old muddy road, meeting the other neighbours' children, and together trekking over fields, meadows and across creeks made the three and half mile hike enjoyable. Like most youngsters of that time, the lard bucket that contained the bread and butter sandwiches, became much lighter and very empty by the time we reached our destination. In fact, the bread and butter sandwiches tasted much better when sprinkled with the wild garlic we were able to pick along that old trail.

I became eager with anticipation when I saw for the first time that new looking white painted building, with windows on the one side like I had never seen before. Lac Bellevue School, an institution of the community, that produced teachers, professional people, farmers and others that would become the backbone of our society into the future decades. One could never forget the smell of the newly oiled floors and that very special wonderful aroma that the desks and books had to offer. The barrel looking stove situated along the one side of the room showed signs of people and activity around it as boot markings and dents showed. There were two large blackboards totally covering the south wall with simple open bookshelves along the east wall. It was only a matter of minutes before

that little gold bell that usually sat on the teacher's desk in front of the blackboard, was rung, and a rush to the classroom had begun.

Inside, the children were seated in such a way that the beginners were seated together, the second graders together and so on. Because the day's teaching time would be spent with all eight grades, the work for one class would be assigned, then the teacher would continue to another grade, etc. The situation became such that a student would very often spend much of the day working on his or her own, yet pick up much information and knowledge as the instructor worked with another grade.

Discipline, as I learned and experienced through those first years of school, was very much demanded by the teacher and the parents. Inside the teacher's desk was a red belt, probably two inches wide and a foot and half long and was a definite fixture of the school. If a student deserved punishment, the old red belt would be used without hesitation. The hurt from that belt was not as great as the shame one experienced having this punishment carried out in front of all the students. In those years, one learned to respect authority and our adults, but as years went by, more and more, we became a permissive society. Today, discipline is difficult to be taught and the red strap is non-existent brought about by the constant possibility of law suits hanging over the educators' heads.

As mentioned earlier, commuting to and from school when one lived 3½ miles away offered many challenges. Some families lived even further and their children experienced even more difficulties. In the summer months we would walk, ride horseback or go with buggy back and forth. But winter always brought hardships. By about 7:30 in the morning, Dad would have the horse harnessed and hooked up, my sisters and I would be dressed, and the one hour journey would begin. If you would get cold, you would run behind the cutter to warm up. On days that were not as cold, the quilt you covered yourself with, would be adequate to keep one from freezing. I remember that sometimes we would cover completely with that quilt and let the horse take us home. These ponies became so trained that you would not have to drive them anymore.

Like any children, fun would sometimes turn into an argument and I remember my sister Florence giving me a bad time one day. The drifts were quite high and the time was right to teach her a lesson. I turned the horse into the side of the drift, (Florence was completely covered with that quilt) and the apple box type cutter, upset trapping Florence inside, as I walked beside the upset vehicle. Between all the screaming and yelling, our argument was settled, (I was boss). All along the horse kept slowly walking home pulling this upset cutter. After 100 or so yards, peace had been restored, and the cutter was righted and the journey continued.

Compared to today, conveniences in those country schools, including the Lac Bellevue School were something to be desired. The bathrooms were outdoors. To this day, I believe our bottoms then were better conditioned to those bare boards when we used the bathrooms in the winter months than anything our bodies are subjected to today. Drinking water was carried by pail from the nearest neighbour and would usually be done by two boys appointed by the teacher. When it was cold outdoors, frequently you would have to break the ice in that pail before you could have a drink. What a difference from what our children experience today.

It was always a treat for the young members of any family to accompany their parents to town. It was like a dream to me; I recall the long wagon ride to St. Paul. The wagon box of wheat sold would buy some clothing, food, etc. at the Brosseau Store. I remember so vaguely, Dad putting the team up at a livery barn to get fed and rested. To me that barn seemed so large, with more horses than I had seen in any one building at any one time. For me to remember so little of this trip would mean that I must have been about six years old and the year was about 1945.

How times have changed! Any amount of rainfall would transform the roads in our district to a ribbon of soggy mud. Because of the three and one half miles destiny to school, the walk to and from would become quite a burden. It was not unusual to see children commuting on horseback or if there were more children than one going to school from one family, the buggy in summer or cutter in winter, was commonly seen.

As I look back at the Lac Bellevue district today, one could not believe the great number of farm families that once resided in that community. Almost every quarter section was occupied, and evidence of this fact remained to the time the community pasture was organized. Since the establishment of the community pasture, these farm sites that were the original homesteads, built by the first pioneers, were destroyed. As one drives through that area, extending south of Lafond to the North Saskatchewan River, and east and south from about the north-south road two miles west of Lac Bellevue Hall, you would find a relatively small population, with the majority of farmers still remaining along that easterly boundary. A few still live in the central area and are surrounded by the four wire pasture fence.

Up until about 1945, any engine sound heard would make me take notice, not that there weren't any, but because so few engine operated machines were to be seen. Within the next five or so years, more tractors and more automobiles appeared in our district and thus mechanization began to be-

come an influence on our way of life within our community and our country.

Our parents always had a problem with storing and keeping fresh vegetables and meats. To minimize living costs, large gardens would be planted and Mom would preserve whatever food was perishable. Meat would come from animals raised on the farm and would be stored in an ice house in the summer months. The cream can with its cream would be hung on a rope and submerged into the well to prevent it from souring. We must remember that rural electrification did not come into the Bellevue area until the mid 50's. Fridges and deep freezers were not to be seen. The ice house was usually a small log building with a basement, built amongst trees or other buildings to offer maximum protection from the hot summer sun. Ice or snow would be packed in this building during the latter part of winter and would be topped with a thick layer of sawdust. This "cooler", built correctly, would last into the latter part of summer.

How I remember the first telephone at our house. Not the modern underground or even the overhead type, but the kind our parents manufactured, using a common dry or wet cell battery they were able to purchase or rob from the old truck. They would connect this crude apparatus together and the fence lines would be their transmission lines. Jumper wires would be placed on the corners of the quarter sections and wire suspended high above the ground to jump road ways. Before this system would be effective and workable, the fence line would be checked for open circuits and insulation in some cases installed on the fence posts. Furthermore, any fence line nailed and embedded in any tree would be cut away so that it would not be grounded. The war had left behind unused equipment and I believe the microphone and receivers used for our first telephone was salvage, purchased by our local engineers.

In our household, the microphone and receiver were one, and to speak, the microphone would be kept near your mouth and when you felt like it had become the other party's turn to speak, you would quickly set this mic near your ear and thus continued the conversation. This worked quite well except when both parties would want to speak at the same time. Often, the only people able to understand the conversation would be the neighbours because when evening came, those connected to that system would sit by their telephone hoping someone would come on the "wire waves." If I can remember correctly, the system lasted some five years and connected some residents in the Lac Bellevue School area to residents in Lake Eliza. I am sure that set a record for the number of members on one party line. This system was short lived and failed in my opinion because of several reasons. One, your conversation would begin, the wind or

snow would make a tree fall across the fence line and the system would ground out and two, topics concerning others would be heard by the talked about with resentment and animosity would be created amongst the neighbourhood.

You know, when I look back into my childhood days, material things were very few, but cooperation and community spirit were unlimited. And like any community, there had to be a focal point; a place for people to gather, to exchange ideas and to socialize. For my family, such a point was the Lac Bellevue Hall.

Whether a dance, wedding or play, a family would attend such a function 'as a family,' no babysitters and no "hang-ups" of children not attending, where their parents would or vice versa. Catering was unheard of then. The ladies of the community would prepare whatever possible in their homes, and the rest was prepared in the tiny basement located under the stage in the hall. If you would peek into that basement during a wedding, some ladies would be cooking over the two wood stoves and others would be dishing out, washing, whatever. What an assembly line and community spirit.

I earlier mentioned that we as children were not left at home, but accompanied our parents to most functions. As an evening would progress, it was not unusual to find children tucked away in blankets, sleeping away, completely perimetering the stage.

My involvement in this history book has shown me that concerts and plays were one form of entertainment our grandfathers and fathers were involved with at the Lac Bellevue Hall. That same hall built by those people, was used for the same purposes by my generation.

Without a doubt, one incident that stands out in my mind and again reflects on community spirit and recreation in my early years, was the late Steve Petruk's attempt to revitalize Ukrainian concerts at the Lac Bellevue Hall in the 50's. What patience that man must have possessed if one realizes that most of the participants, with their guitars, mandolins, accordions, etc. could not read a note of music and probably some handled their instruments for the first time. The many evenings and Sunday afternoons I spent with that group were tremendously enjoyable. The traditional Ukrainian folk songs would be translated, using the English alphabet into words and verses so that we, the non Ukrainian readers, could understand. (example: FINA GIW-CHINA — meaning nice girl). But times were changing, schools were being centralized, road conditions were gradually improving and travelling longer distances became more prevalent. Thus, organizing such as mentioned above, became more difficult and I believe, for this reason Steve's concerts were short lived.

Sunday afternoons in the summer months, weather permitting, would find most of the community at the ball diamond behind the Lac Bellevue Hall. Fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters; they would all become involved in a game of softball. Those unable to participate in the ball game would simply relax on the sidelines discussing politics, their next year's crops, or what have you. From these Sunday afternoon scrub games, developed one of the better softball teams in the area and for many years, carried with them the Lac Bellevue name with dignity and respect.

From the late 40's, more and more the automobile was becoming a dominant factor in our lives. There were roads but the grades were built poorly with virtually no gravel. The spring run off or any significant amount of rainfall flooded most low lying areas and culverts were few to allow adequate drainage. Automobile traffic created ruts and water accumulation virtually made them impassible. I remember some trips to St. Paul, a distance of some sixteen miles from our farm, vehicles would gather into a convoy and one would help another through one mud hole, then another, and the men would pull, push and corduroy to get through. Every year the M.D. built more roads and graveling eliminated some of these problems. This improvement really began after the rural schools closed and buses began vanning the children to St. Paul, Elk Point or Myrnam. During those first years, I began going to school in St. Paul, the bus would come to our residence only when the road conditions were favourable. If it would rain, I would find myself walking to the main highway to catch the bus. Today, most roads in the County are well built and gravelled and in many cases, we offer "yard service" for our students. I wonder how many Lac Bellevue, Lake Eliza residents from the 50's, 60's and into the 70's would have bet that one day the main road connecting St. Paul and Myrnam would become a first class paved highway, equal to any in the province.

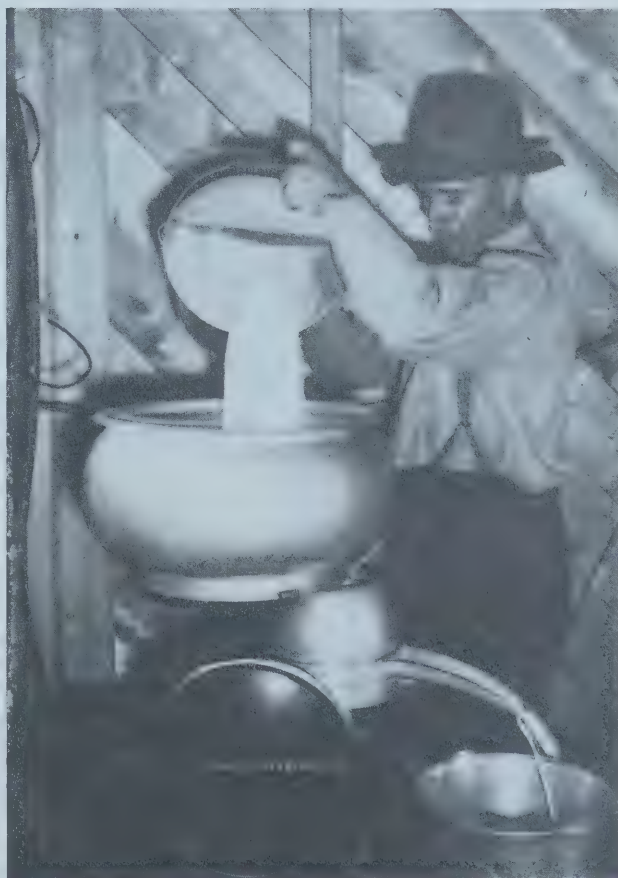
It was to take some twenty years, from that first meeting our local delegation had with MLA Mr. Ray Ryerson and Mr. Gordon Taylor at that time, Alberta Highways Minister to realize our needs. No more fenders shaking loose, and wheels breaking off; a dream came true.

Through the late sixties and into the 70's, great economic changes were experienced within our communities as well. A single quarter section farmer became a half section farmer and the half section farmer became a section farmer, etc. The log house was replaced with the two bedroom bungalow and the bungalow became a twelve hundred to two thousand square foot mansion. The young people of earlier times who had urbanized in the 60's, were looking to the country again in the late 70's. Northern Alberta began buzzing with activity.

But through all this growth and prosperity, we brought about some serious problems; namely inflation, pollution and others. A quarter section of land in the Lac Bellevue area would sell for \$600.00 — \$1,000.00 in the 50's, \$3,000 — \$6,000 in the 60's and \$60,000 in the late 70's. In 1964, a farmer could purchase a 65 H.P. tractor for \$6,500.00 and today, that same machine retails for \$40,000.00. That new 1,000 square foot bungalow and lot my uncle purchased in St. Paul in 1973 for \$20,000.00 was resold in 1980 for \$74,000.00.

Where once our pioneers in this district fished and caught good edible fish in the North Saskatchewan River, we are told today that the mercury level in this fish is so high that its consumption should be limited. Sanctuaries are being established throughout the country and 'No Hunting' and 'No Trespassing' signs are visible everywhere to ensure that our children can also enjoy the sight of wild animals and birds in their natural habitat.

Yes, there were many changes in our community during the first fifty years and our forefathers' dedication and hard work gave us much that we can be proud of but the last fifty years brought even greater change and it is the responsibility of our generation to ensure that future generations will enjoy our communities as we did ours.



Eugene at the separator.



Main Street of St. Paul de Metis in 1921 or 1922.

Power poles in center of street at the time when St. Paul de Metis had its own power plant. Around the time first cars in St. Paul de Metis — sign on Power poles indicate to keep to the Right. Business on Right of Main Street J.E. Primeau's Store (and where Co-op store now) J.E. Primeau warehouse. Douquette Livery Barn (Stedmans). J.M. Drouin House (Foundry). Ed Mailloux Blacksmith Shop. (Foundry) — Ed Mailloux Massey Harris Agency (Foundry). Horse drawn wagon in picture, cannot see the other business places, they were Cafe, then J.H. Bedard Hardware, Bakery (Imperial Lumber). Cyrs Butcher Shop (Imperial Lumber). Lavoie Hotel (Habitat). Left on Picture St. Paul Hotel — Journal & Mikes Jewelry. Residence — M. Wills. Beaudry Block — Angeles Fashions. Gagnon Store — I.G.A.

OLD MACHINERY



Mr. Jos Lafrance breaking land on his farm with his McCormick 1530 tractor, purchased in 1928.



Taken in 1932. Minneapolis Moline Tractor Elzear, Edmond, Prosper, Henry, and Eugene sitting on the tractor with oldest son Aime.



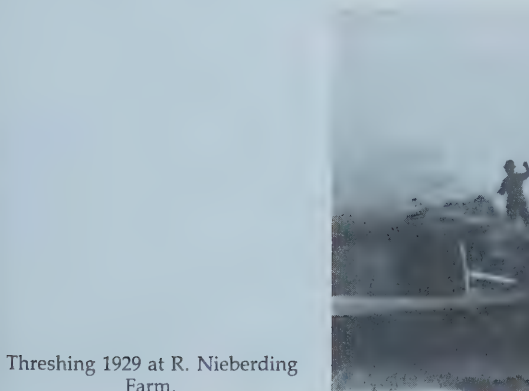
The first tractor that J.F. Berlinguette purchased was a John Deere Model D in 1939. J.F. is driving and his sons Jos and Victor are each on a binder.



Mr. and Mrs. Damase Lavoie cutting grain in 1950.



Will Yettaw (Alex's brother) Virginia, Pat (nephew of Mr. Yettaw), Mrs. Yettaw, Leo Bolduc, Otto Yettaw.



Threshing 1929 at R. Nieberding Farm.



Plowing on the G. Hovelkamp farm — Mary on father's knee
Helpers are Ewald and Hilda — 1935.



R. Nieberding, Threshing Crew — 1920's.



Steamer and John Deere Tractor, 1931.



Men going to vote — according to Dm. Zackaruk Don Halina Truck?



Gilbert & Prosper Foisy breaking land in the Foisy District
1927



ARTHUR GAMACHE and sons LUCIEN, DIDIER AND ANDRE — July 1936.
Mr. Gamache never forgot the day he came home with his new tractor on
tires the first in the district to find that his crop was hailed out completely.

SADDLE LAKE RESERVE

by Charles Lamoureux

Saddle Lake Indian Reserve #125 was created in 1876 under treaty #6. There were three bands involved: Little Hunter, James Seenum, and one under Blue Quill.

John C. Nelson, Dominion Land Surveyor, laid out the reserve in 1886. It contained 115 square miles. In 1896, fourteen square miles were added on the north, near Cache Lake to accommodate people from Wahroitanow Reserve.

In 1910 and 1911, the reserve was fenced.

In 1925 a portion of the reserve on the east side, containing 18,720 acres, was sold back to the government for \$10.00 an acre. This was not a bad price as land closer to St. Paul was advertised for 5 to 10 dollars an acre at the time. This area is now generally the St. Brides district.

Each person on the reserve got \$100.00, in all \$67,000.00 was distributed, the rest was to be used to help the Indians at the discretion of the Superintendent General of Indian Affairs. Some money was deposited at 5% interest, that interest to be distributed among the tribe on an annual basis.

Mr. Joe Brosseau advised the band not to sell their hay lands.

The government agents placed on the reserves were supposedly there to help the Indians farm, and to help them in any way. But this did not always happen. Arriving here, stuffed with their own importance, fully conscious of their power over the natives, some of them were an abomination. One Indian, describing the agent said, "That guy should be shot with two guns." Certainly, it appears that sometimes there was a total lack of communication.

The reserve is 77,000 acres in size. At first there were attempts at farming, but when the great depression struck, even experienced farmers could not make a go of it. The result was that the reserve was dotted all over with strips of prairie that had been broken and abandoned. The only crops growing there were wild strawberries. Apart from 3 to 4 families, among them the Steinhauers and Hunters, there was very little farming done till the 1950's. At



Aerial view of part of Saddle Lake Reserve, taken from the southwest, showing the large school, the new complex and the trailer court. To the far right we see Father McMahon's residence.

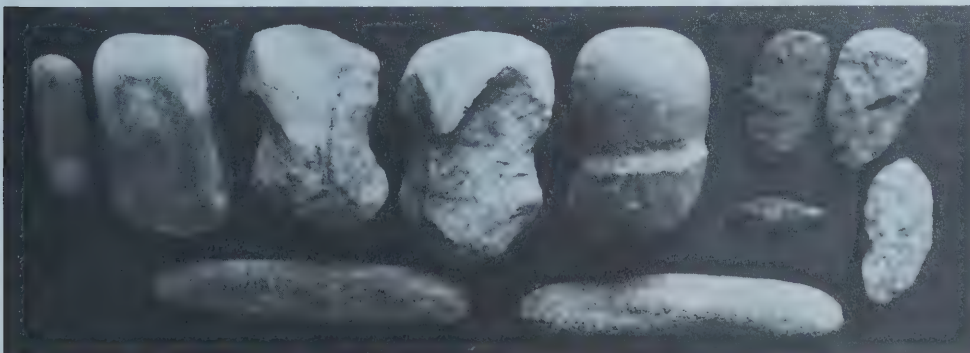
that time local settlers broke some land and rented it for a few years.

In 1967 a program was started with the help of A.R.D.A. — The Alberta Rehabilitation and Development Act. This was a joint federal-provincial program to better use the land. Under this project 12,725 acres were broken and put into grain production. The St. Paul Community Pasture was started the same way. As of today, there are approximately 22,000 acres of cultivated and pasture land being utilized.

In the early days the people of the reserve would work for district farmers, and some would go as far as Lethbridge to work on irrigated truck farms. It was difficult to start a farm on one's own as the land belonged to the tribe and could not be used as collateral by the individual.

Anyone who approached a banker in those days can remember their pinch-nosed parsimony and their requirements for 200% collateral, plus a bit of groveling. It was really hopeless.

The reserve was not a smooth place to travel on. The prairie was riddled with badger hills and holes, plus other holes by gophers and woodchucks.



Rocks collected by Charles Lamoureux, our rock hound. One is definitely an arrow head, the three on the right hand side possibly were scrapers used in preparing hides. The three large ones in the centre were probably tomahawks. The second on the left hand side was likely used to pound meat or whatever. The two long narrow ones could have been used to grind grain, roots, herbs, etc.

Wagon trails stretched out in every direction, 2 or 3 tracks wide and a foot deep. You had to know where you were going because you could end up following the wrong trail, miles out of your way.

The Indians drove cayuses, small narrow hipped horses, mostly dun-colored, hitched to small wagons with low boxes. The wagons were about halfway between the size of a democrat and a farmers' freighting wagon. The driver would sit on a plank or a spring seat out front, in back the ladies usually sat on a pile of hay. The driver would keep the horses at a pace halfway between a walk and a trot, and in this way they covered a lot of miles without overheating the horses and shaking everything to pieces. There was a lot of hay made in Duck Lake in the old days. When the settlers came to Lafond, the lake was full and waves would break on shore. People used to bathe there. As time passed the lake dried up to a point where hay could be made all over. Slides were used to buck the hay, after it was put in coils. A team of horses on each side would pull the loaded slide up a ramp to dump the hay over the top edge. Hundreds of stacks dotted the area, to be sold later to settlers and livery barns. The tribe had the first baler in the district, a big thing not unlike modern balers but stationary.

Fires were set every spring to clean up the hay lands. The annual reserve fire would stretch from Foisy to St. Brides, creeping eastward and consuming bunches of willow and poplars in great puffs of smoke. It was a sight to see in the evening. This cleaned up the old growths of prairie wool to make haying easier.

Haying time used to be a great chance to celebrate, especially on the east side of Duck Lake. Drums and singing could be heard all night. Several drums going at once could be heard miles away. Sometimes a lone Indian coming back home with an empty hayrack, could be heard singing Cree songs as he rattled along.



Aerial view of the first Sacred Heart Church built by Father Merer, in 1888. To the right, where the large spruce trees are growing, was the site of the first Blue Quills School. The graveyard can be seen towards the upper left, and is still used, as fresh graves were noticed from the air. It is remarkable how well kept this graveyard is, in spite of its distance from the agency.



Aerial view of some of the agricultural equipment and the land cultivated in the better parts of the Saddle Lake Reserve.

Some people hunted coyotes with hounds. It was not unusual to see someone with a coyote on the saddle, followed by a pack of long-legged killer dogs. If you went visiting at their camp, you were well advised to leave your dog at home.

Other people would fish with nets in Saddle Lake and peddle the fish around the district.

Local farmers would pasture cattle on the reserve. This was done by agreement but often the cattle just broke out from home and wandered over to the reserve, and had to be found. It was a chore for farm boys near the reserve, to go look for them after school, barefoot on burned over prairie.

After eating their fill all day, the animals would bed down in a willow clump or a hollow, to keep away from the flies. One yearned for a horse and a pair of binoculars then.

In the spring, after the fires and maybe a shower, the prairie would break out with acres of crocuses or May flowers as they are sometimes called, in the emerging grass, a sight never to be forgotten,

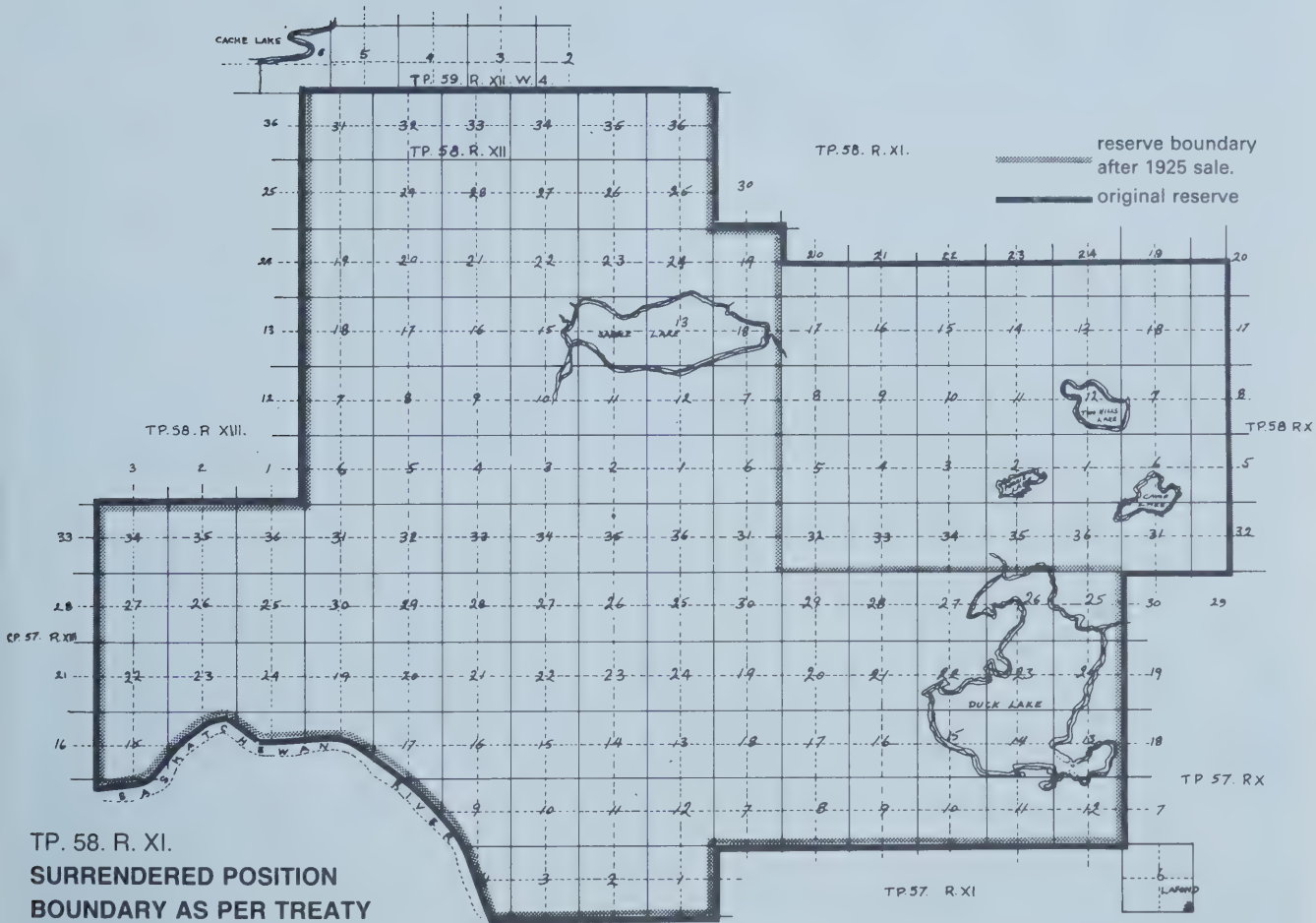


Aerial view of part of the Saddle Lake Reserve showing, the church, the Sisters' Residence, Father McMahon's residence, the large school, part of the new complex and many residences, including the trailer court.

PLAN OF SADDLE LAKE INDIAN RESERVE N^o 125

COMPILED FROM TOWNSHIP PLANS AND
FIELD NOTES OF J.C. NELSON, D.L.S. 1886
AND A.W. PONTON, D.L.S. 1897

Scale 40 Chains to 1 inch
Treaty C



with ducks quacking in every pot hole, a real picture of the new season.

Sharp-tailed grouse were everywhere, and one could go to a hill where they performed their mating dance and set snares there for a good meal.

The Indians always had horses running loose, and they somehow knew, most times, where those horses were. After tractors and cars came into use the horses were only used for haying and gradually disappeared.

In the thirties, you could still see the odd wagon and tent parked near some trees, not far from a slough, little brown kids playing in the sun, happy as can be. No wonder some yearn for the good old days.

The proximity of the reserve to St. Paul was a great boon for the town merchants. Car dealers had a ready market for their used vehicles. Roads were not always the best although it has improved a lot since the 40's.

After a few months driving over those pot holes and ruts, the car was put away and another one purchased. In one year some families would go through 3 or 4 old cars.

Oil wells were drilled on Saddle Lake Reserve in the 40's but were capped due to lack of market. The wells are shallow, about 1700 feet and the volume of gas is not great. When the band cashed their first royalty cheques there was not enough money in the

St. Paul banks. Dealers sold fridges and household appliances like hot dogs.

After a sit-in at Blue Quill Indian Residential School, the band obtained the school and the right to run it as they pleased. University Courses are given there, and now are open to everyone.

A big administration and recreation complex was constructed at Saddle Lake along with a machinery repair shop. For several years, a plant has been in operation to pre-fabricate houses for the band and others. Most people there have modern homes with electricity.

There are some who will remember the early days as the "Lemon extract years". Treaty Indians, by law were forbidden to buy or have liquor right up till the sixties. That law was a perfect example of Canadian blue-nosed hypocrisy.

Anyone who winters on these prairies ought to have a snort now and then to stave off the vapors and cabin fever.

The result of this foolish law was that the Indians got used to drinking lemon extract. Some white folks got to like it too. Some fellows would get a

white man to buy them a bottle of wine or whiskey. Some would go to the bootleggers, of which there were a good number. Strangely enough, the most prominent ones never got caught. The whole thing was demoralizing for everyone concerned. Squads of police spied on and harassed the natives, who had to sneak around like common criminals just to quench their thirst.

Finally, reason broke through and Indians were treated like the rest of the people. No one was scalped, no massacres occurred, and the "dries" were reduced to gnashing their teeth in frustration.

Looking back at what the white man hath wrought on this great land, it could have been worse, but possibly a whole lot better.

It is odd to see Indians joining local service clubs and sometimes even the Federal Police, but it might be the only way. If you can't fight them, join them. The past is full of memories of lazy happy days under the prairie sun worn harnesses and thin cayuses, but friendly and true neighbors. There are many weather-creased faces that have a story to tell.

It will never be the same again, but we hope the future will be better.



Joseph Journault clearing his land in approx. in the early 40's.

HORSES



Jean-Charles Journault, 15 years old. Plowing the land at home.



Alphonse Lavoie, Real Lavoie, Damas Lavoie, Victor Lavoie, Joseph Tremblay.



Travel in the Early Days — 1928. The Mike Boratynec Family, notice the thatched roof of the house.



Hormidas Paradis ready to go work with horses giving the Old Twin City Tractor a rest.



Albert Doucet hauling wood — 1933.



Our son Orson on his pony Flicka.



Evariste Gouin on his saddle horse. Note in the 40's the cords of fire wood in background.



Norman Barlad on "Midnite" at the Jerry Barlad Farm — 1981.



Hector Jean, giving the younger children a ride, also our new self-propelled combine with a good supply of wood in the shed — 1950.



Anthony Desaulniers plowing his garden — Germain on horse — 3 yrs. old 1934.



Twin colts — Queen and King with Mary Gadowsky.



The 1939 — "Cadillac".



Elzear and Maria Foisy and their son Laurent leaving for church on a Sunday morning. In the background is the old shack at Foisy, early 1930.



Seen above is part of Frank Linkewich's barn where several Friday night dances were held on the loft. Frank organized these himself after the busy season on the farm was over. The wedding dance for Emil and Annie Linkewich was held here. (Lac Bellevue District 1940 app.).



House moving: Philippe Robinson, Wilfrid Desaulniers, Richard Malo, George Robinson, Alphonse Robinson — in charge — in app. 1943.



Albert Desaulniers with pacer "Bonny Hell" Background is the Clovis Therien residence and the Edmond Mailloux home further back.

HISTORY OF THE SETTLEMENT OF ST. BRIDES IN 1927

The British Empire Family Scheme was organized in England under the supervision of the Soldier's Settlement Board. It was under this scheme that our settlers came to Canada. Rev. Father MacDonnell, OSB, was immigration agent. He travelled through Ireland in 1926 to organize young married couples to come to Canada.

The settling party was organized for a colony near Saddle Lake, Alberta. This land was purchased from the Cree Indians of Saddle Lake Reservation. The families were to each get one quarter section, with forty acres of virgin soil broken and disked.



St. Brides Church.

The British Government loaned \$1,500.00 to each family with which to buy livestock and machinery. If you survived for 10 years, this loan was wiped off the books. This land was purchased in one block of 50 quarter sections on one title. As each family paid out for his farm, he was given title to his quarter. They had 25 years to pay for this land, at yearly installments.

The first community buildings were an Indian log house that was left by the Indians that had lived on the Joseph Bell farm. Mr. Joseph Bell was the first postmaster. The first store was run by Mr. J. Hornby. The first teacher was Mr. Richards who taught in this log house in 1928. The church was built with a big basement and school was opened in this basement with 2 teachers, Mrs. John Hornby and



St. Brides' Shamrocks — Roman Brodziak, Joe McColl, Ray Hunter, Nick Bohachyk, Floris Looy — Sitting: Mike Chornohus, Mike Brodziak, Walter Karwash, Bill Danyluk — Missing: Pat Okane, Dan McGonigal, Len Slater, Maurice Finilson, Maurice and Zoel Robinson, and Maurice Jean.

Mr. Richards. In 1929, the first school was built on the corner of Mr. John Connor's farm. It was known as St. Brides Celtic School No. 4337. In 1929, Mr. Charles Edwards built and operated a store on the corner of his farm, a half a mile west of St. Brides corner.

The Sisters of Service were hired in 1930 to teach school. Sister Donnelly was the principal with grades 1 through 9 being taught by two sisters and Mr. MacDonald. In 1931 the convent and rectory were built. In 1932 the Sisters of Service withdrew and lay teachers were hired during the next two years. In 1934, two sisters of St. Joseph of London came from Edmonton to teach the senior grades in the basement room of the church.

In 1935 the Grain Club was organized by Father Cartier. The members won the provincial championship and trophies.

In 1936 St. Brides was hailed out 100% on the 18 of July.

In 1938 Highway 28 was widened and graded.



St. Brides' Hockey Club — 1961.

In 1940 Father Cartier's Silver Jubilee was celebrated with a banquet held in his honor in the Celtic School. A third classroom was added to the Celtic School so the church basement was no longer needed.

Around 1936 and 1937 another store was built at the corner of highways 28 and 36 by Albert Alexs of St. Paul. The store was later sold to William Saskew and burnt down in 1949. A new store was built by Mr. P.J. O'Neill on the opposite corner where the present store still operates.

A post office was built in 1949 on the old store site and was operated by Mr. and Mrs. Bernard McGonigal until his retirement.



Floris Looy.

In 1952, the Silver Jubilee of St. Brides Settlement was celebrated. It was a gala affair attended by the mayor of St. Paul and the Clandonald pipers. Most Rev. Philip Lussier, CSR, the newly consecrated Bishop of St. Paul, graced the celebration by his presence.

In 1952, three oil wells were discovered on the farms of James O'Connor and Micheal and Francis Dolan and Francis Gottenbus. These wells are in operation at this time. They are pumping gas out of them, and many more were drilled later.

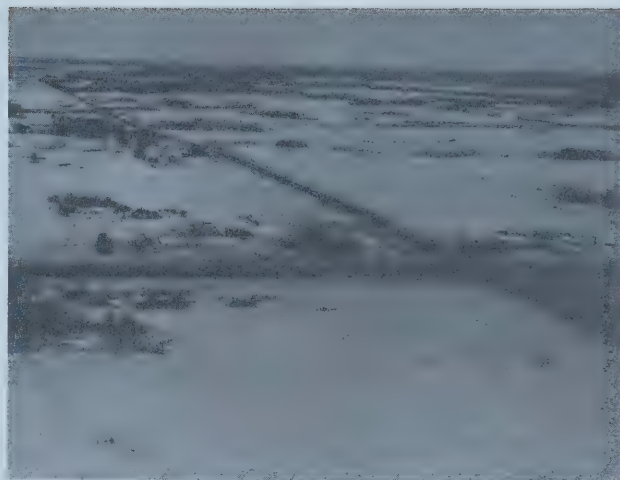
In 1953 electricity came to the hamlet. The people celebrated at a banquet.

In 1955 Highway 36 from Edmonton via Brosseau joined Highway 28 at St. Brides' corner.

In 1962 a pay phone was installed at the store corner. Later the private homes requested phones and by 1972 all homes had them.

In 1962, a modern school opened around May 24th. Grades 1 to 8 were taught; the teachers were Sister St. Micheal and Mrs. Pete Mallon. Forty-eight pupils were in attendance. The grand official opening took place Sept. 16th, 1962.

In 1964, as pupil enrollment went down and the personnel of the sisterhood decreased, the Sisters of St. Joseph were no longer able to staff the school, so in 1964 they withdrew. The school continued for



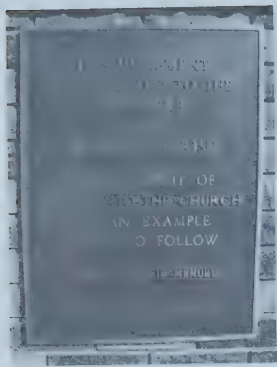
Aerial view of Hamlet of St. Brides. The St. Brides Store and Post Office are in the foreground. The St. Brides Church is further up the road, with the Community Centre and Curling Rink across the road. Other buildings are private homes.

one more year under lay administration. A vote was taken as to the continuing of the school. The majority voted to have the children bussed to St. Paul. The new school lasted three years. The St. Paul School Division now uses the building to store old desks and equipment.

St. Brides celebrated their fifty year anniversary on the ninth and tenth of July, 1977. This event was organized by Peter Mallon. It started on Saturday morning with games and buggy rides, with everyone getting reacquainted, followed by an old time dance in the recreation centre. Sunday morning there was a pancake and sausage breakfast. At 5 p.m. in the afternoon an anniversary mass was said in the Parish Church by Bishop Raymond Roy, assisted by Rev. Edmund Gagajek and other priests from St. Paul. At the banquet which followed, many presentations took place to various persons who had been part of this small country parish through the years. Bishop Roy had the pleasure of presenting a plaque to the Sisters of St. Joseph, who had



Celtic School S.D. 4337. Some of the pupils in 1951.



This monument is dedicated to the pioneers of St. Brides Parish, whose spirit of loyalty to the church set an example for us to follow. Long live their memory. The parishioners of St. Brides — 1975.

acted as teachers for many years in the parish. Engraved were the words "In honor of those who founded the St. Brides Parish, may God Bless". Accepting the plaque was Sister Rose, a former teacher. Mike Fluker, MLA, on behalf of Lieutenant Governor Ralph Steinhauer who could not be present, gave Pete Mallon a scroll acknowledging the anniversary.

Naming of the Colony

As the majority were of Irish origin, the colonists wished to call their settlement "St. Bridget's" after the patroness of Ireland. Between the Department of Communication and the colonists it was agreed to shorten the name to ST. BRIDES without an apostrophe. Coincidentally, another community six miles further north, was Cork. "Call it Cork", said

the Minister of Communication, Ottawa, who himself had come from Cork, Ireland. Owlseye, further north still, is an Indian name; so is Saddle Lake.

Institutions

At the beginning, an Indian log house was used for church services and rectory. Father MacIntyre was the pastor. In 1928, a crew of settlers co-operated to build a church. Richard Larkin, the brick layer, built the best chimney the church ever had.

In 1929, the Celtic School No. 4337 was built. The convent was built in 1931. Lumber from the dismantled Industrial School at Saddle Lake was used in building the rectory and convent. What a medley conglomeration of differently colored boards met the future occupants. How we pioneered, and how the settlers pioneered and suffered from the cold in the badly built and badly heated homes.

Post Office

In 1927, Joseph Bell had the first post office and brought the mail from St. Paul. Later P. McGonigal Sr. took over the mail service from St. Paul and later Ashmont, Cork and St. Brides.

In 1945, Patrick O'Neill Sr. became postmaster when Joseph Bell decided to move and the post office was then moved to the corner store. Bernard McGonigal took over the mail haul from his father, continuing the haul from Ashmont, Cork to St. Brides. He continued hauling the mail after taking over the post office in 1949, until the postal trucks took over the haul.

After his retirement, in 1977, the post office was moved back into the store, and Rita Renauld became postmistress, where it still is operating.

In 1961 the hockey club and a garden club were started. In 1961 the 4-H beef club was organized by Mr. William Looy. The club is still very active in the community today.

Curling Rink 1962

The Celtic School was bought from the St. Paul County No. 19 for the sum of one dollar, to be used for recreational purposes. Many bingo games were



Celtic School S.D. 4337. Some of the pupils and Sister Donnelly in front of the school in 1931.



Building Crew of the Curling Rink 1962. Standing L-R: Floris Looy, John Kossowan, Wallace Rice, Nick Bohachuk. Kneeling L-R: Mike Chornohus, William Looy, Sam Dolan, Barney McGonigal.



Cutting the ribbon at the opening of St. Brides' Curling Rink. John Milne, District Agriculturist — 1962.

held for old cars with some cars being donated and others bought. This money was used for the curling rink which was added to the old school.

The first bingo brought in \$211.00 and the second one \$71.00 with a donation of \$20.00 from Mr. Robert Tomlinson of Foisy. With much volunteer help, the curling rink was built and on its way.

Mr. Robert Loque, one of the original old timers, was the first to throw a rock at the grand opening.

After a lapse of a number of years, it was almost forgotten, until new interest and help from government grants has it back in operation. The recreation centre is now being well used for curling and community affairs.



First rock to be delivered L-R: Jerry Milne, Father Bussiere, Robert Logue (delivery of the rock), Wallace Rice, William Kozicki, and Harry Bohachyk — 1962.

List of some of the Teachers at St. Brides Celtic School No. 4337

(Not in order)

Miss McDonald	Sister Donnelly
Miss Kelly	Sister Vallon
Miss O'dwyer	Sister Rose
Miss Moran	Sister Constance
Miss Donveta	Sister St. Micheal
Mrs. Hornby	Sister St. Clair
Mrs. Lavoie	Sister St. Vincent
Mrs. Mallon	Sister St. Joseph
Mrs. Conrad	Sister St. Paul
Mrs. McMahon	Sister Claudia
Mrs. Looy	Mr. McDonald
Mr. Richards	Mr. Sager
Mr. O'dwyer	Mr. Burke
Mr. Hornby	St. Marie Angela
Mrs. Slater	

Names of St. Brides Store Operators from 1927 to 1981

John Hornby	Albert Alex
P.J. O'Neill	Wm. Looy
Charles Edwards	William Saskew
Micheal Chornohus	Mike Podloski
Lucien Renauld — Red	& Rita Renauld

St. Brides Ball Teams

In the late thirties St. Brides formed a softball team. Some of the players were Dan, Willie and Pat Okane, Gabbie Maguire, Floris Looy, Peter and

Arnet Ingram, Walter Brodziak, Mike Shepert, Ray Nisson and Fernand Belzil.

They played softball till the early forties when the baseball team was formed. They were called the "St. Brides Shamrocks". Saddle Lake, Lafond, Hamlin, Brosseau, St. Lina, Speden and St. Paul were some of the teams they played against.

The first diamond was located in Patrick McGonigal's pasture. Later they moved to the corner, east of St. Brides store. It remained there until highway 36 and 28 were built. The Shamrocks played ball till the early fifties.

PARISH PRIESTS

1927	Rev. Donald MacIntyre
1928	Rev. H.A. McPhee
1934	Rev. John Carter
1948	Rev. Patrick Heffernan
1951	Rev. Leo Bartley
1952	Rev. William Young
1958	Rev. Laurent Bussiere
1967	Rev. Fernando Bourassa
1968	Rev. Joseph Feeley
1969	Rev. R. Bissonette
1970	Rev. A. Noel
1971	Msgr. Joseph Kochan
1972	Rev. R. Guerin
1974	Rev. Edmund Gagajek
1977	Rev. Lugowski
1979	Rev. M. McMahon
1980	Rev. E. Croteau

FAMILIES WHO CAME TO ST. BRIDES, 1927

Name	Country of Origin	Occupation
Donald MacMillan	Scotland	Carpenter
Wm. McLaughlin	Ireland	Farmer
James O'Neill	Ireland	Army Military Service
J. Hornby	England	Teacher
Wm. McVea	England	Policeman
P. McGlone	Ireland	Farmer
J. Haggerty	Scotland	Farmer
H. MacDonnell	Scotland	Farmer
J. Pugh	Scotland	Laborer
J. Lawlor	Ireland	Policeman
Wm. White	England	Butcher, veteran WW1
J. MacPherson	Scotland	Tailor
John Duffy	Ireland	Farmer
P. O'Kane	Ireland	Farm Laborer
P. O'Hara	Ireland	Worker in flax mill
John McGill	Ireland	Worker in flax mill
John McGrath	Ireland — Wales	Farm Laborer
J.W. Connor	England	Farmer, Sgt. Major WW1
C.G. Edwards	England	Bicycle business, veteran
A. Gear	England	Steel worker, veteran
J. Bell	Ireland	Fisherman
J. Whelan	Scotland	Miner
J. Magheer	Ireland	Laborer
J. Brennan	Ireland	Screen Artist and Actor
Rod MacIntyre	Scotland	Merchant Marines
Peter Campbell	Ireland	Laborer
Richard Larkin	Ireland	Bricklayer
Pat Lennard	Ireland	Businessman
Tom McCool	Ireland	Farm Laborer
P. McGonigal	Ireland	Farmer
P. McMullen	Ireland	Engineer, merchant marines
James O'Donald	Ireland	Farm Laborer
Frank O'Hara	Ireland	Handyman, peat worker
J. McManus	Ireland	Farm Laborer
R. Logue	Scotland	Shepherd, then farmer
Barney Quinn	Ireland	Fisherman
F. Maguire	Ireland	Farmer
Wm. Stafford	England	Veteran, WWI
Joe Kirkpatrick	Ireland	Farmer
Wm. O'Connor	Scotland	Steel and mill worker
F. Quinn	Ireland	Fisherman
Barney McKenna	Ireland	Laborer
Dan Laverty	Ireland	Farmer
Hugh Quinn	Ireland	Fisherman
J. Doherty	Ireland	Farmer
Art O'Neill	Ireland	Farmer
Paddy Mallon	Ireland	Farmer
Barney O'Neill	Ireland	Fisherman
James Devenney	Ireland	Imperial Veteran
M. McGaughey	Ireland	Army Veteran
G. Dolan	Ireland	Farmer
J. Gilligan	Ireland	Farmer
James Ferris	Ireland	Farmer, came in 1928

BURIALS IN ST. BRIDES PARISH

Kevin Maguire	1928	
Theresa Duffy	Nov. 29, 1928	16 years
Joseph McManus	Dec. 20, 1928	3 months
Mrs. Lecompte and Henry	Dec. 23, 1928	
Christina Bell	Jan. 10, 1929	3 weeks
Pierre Hurtubise	Feb. 3, 1929	4 days
Mrs. Sarah McLaughlin	Feb. 13, 1929	37 years
Armand Michel Berlinguette	Mar. 13, 1929	10 months
Marie-Ange Plouffe	Sept. 24, 1930	3 months
Albert Paul Haggerty	Oct. 16, 1930	6 months
Baby Plouffe (Existe)	Apr. 14, 1931	2 hours
Mrs. Annie Hunter	July 14, 1931	46 years
Mrs. Rose Kirkpatrick	Oct. 24, 1931	44 years
Joseph Campbell	Jan. 20, 1932	10 years
Joseph Henry Paradis	Apr. 22, 1932	2 weeks
Wm. Paul Connor	Apr. 23, 1932	10 months
John Haggerty	June 28, 1932	43 years
Mrs. Fanny Mallon	Jan. 5, 1933	34 years
Baby Nissen	1934	
Baby Kirkpatrick	1934	
Patrick Mcglone	Nov. 12, 1934	
Baby Pugh	1934	
Baby Mcglone	1934	
Bernard O'Neill	Apr. 27, 1936	19 years
Daniel Laverty	Mar. 5, 1937	56 years
Baby Verbitzky	Sept. 12, 1938	1 day
Stannislau John Rice	Nov. 13, 1938	1 month
Baby McGaughey	Mar., 1939	
Baby Edwards	1939	
Baby Pugh	Nov., 1939	
Baby Connor	Jan., 1940	
Donald MacMillan	Nov. 23, 1940	72 years
Mrs. Amelia Gleason	Feb. 20, 1941	78 years
Baby Pugh	Apr. 23, 1941	
Willie Rice	May 22, 1941	6 years
Elizabeth Callioux	Jan. 3, 1942	89 years
Mrs. Catherine MacMillan	July 14, 1942	69 years
Baby Gottenbos	Jan. 26, 1943	2 days
Elizabeth Whitford	May 17, 1943	6 years
Florence Kathleen Quinn	May 19, 1943	4 years
Frances Carmel Connor	Jan. 13, 1944	8 years
Francis Quinn	Feb. 2, 1944	73 years
Baby McCauley	Sept. 4, 1944	3 days
Caroline Paziuk	Mar. 31, 1945	14 years
Mrs. Malcolm (Mary) MacPerson	Oct. 7, 1945	32 years
Looy child (Floris)	Feb. 23, 1946	2 years 5 months
Mrs. Roderick MacIntyre	Apr. 8, 1946	52 years
Mrs. John Duffy	Aug. 9, 1946	67 years
Mrs. John (Brigid) Whelan	Nov. 7, 1946	61 years
George Dolan	Feb. 22, 1947	59 years
James Doherty	Aug. 20, 1947	82 years
William O'Kane	Dec. 30, 1947	24 years
Patrick McGonigal	Apr. 20, 1949	69 years
James Patrick Devine	July 15, 1949	17 years
Diane Thauvette	July 18, 1949	2 years

John Whelan	Aug. 5, 1950	78 years
Nichodemus Koncewicz	Sept. 19, 1950	48 years
Mrs. Margaret Devlin	Nov. 30, 1950	63 years
Paul Poirier	Mar. 7, 1932	60 years
Elizabeth O'Neill	Jan. 31, 1951	70 years
Maria Anna Boychuk	May 24, 1951	2 days
William Michael Shepert	July 13, 1951	8 months
Maureen Dolan	July 12, 1951	stillborn
Joseph Allan Kirkpatrick	Aug. 20, 1951	8 days
Joseph McGonigal	Mar. 8, 1952	3 days
Annie O'Hara	Feb. 4, 1954	66 years
Mary O'Connor	Apr. 19, 1955	65 years
Patrick O'Hara	Sept. 5, 1955	65 years
Patrick Maloon	July 11, 1956	56 years
Marie Lorraine Looy	Mar. 6, 1959	8 hours
James Devenney	June 9, 1959	75 years
Mathilda Martin	Oct. 28, 1959	
Hugh Joseph Quinn	June 29, 1960	27 years
Louise Ferris	Aug. 10, 1960	57 years
Brigid Quinn	Aug. 29, 1960	77 years
Francis Joseph O'Neill	Nov. 15, 1960	45 years
Shirley Poitras	Apr. 26, 1961	8 years
Gaston Reckinger	July 23, 1962	75 years
Elizabeth O'Kane	July 6, 1963	71 years
Alfred Charles Gear	July 11, 1964	76 years
Patrick O'Kane	Mar. 19, 1965	73 years
Ellen Dolan	June 19, 1965	80 years
Patrick Devlin	July 28, 1965	89 years
Martha Doherty	Aug. 11, 1965	80 years
Adelaide Bentley	Oct. 2, 1965	66 years
Joseph Alfred Gear	Mar. 5, 1966	52 years
Arthur O'Neil	Sept. 19, 1966	86 years
Joseph Looy	May 6, 1967	20 years
John Duffy	July 19, 1967	93 years
Bernard O'Neill	Apr. 5, 1968	85 years
Joseph McGonigal	Apr. 17, 1968	46 years
Sarah (Quinn) Devenney	Mar. 5, 1970	86 years
Agnes Murray Marscal	May 18, 1970	101 years
Bridget Logue	July 7, 1970	84 years
Ann May Guilbault	Mar. 3, 1971	34 years
Hugh Quinn	Apr. 12, 1971	79 years
James Ferris	June 27, 1972	75 years
Patrick Joseph O'Neill	July 19, 1972	65 years
Timothy Joseph Murry	1972	82 years
Mike Chornohus	Feb. 14, 1974	48 years
Roger P. Doherty	Oct. 4, 1974	63 years
Patrick McMullen	Nov. 2, 1974	74 years
John Dolan	Jan. 7, 1975	57 years
Joseph Duffy	June 19, 1975	72 years
Margaret Quinn	Sept. 18, 1975	81 years
Felix Devlin	Sept. 25, 1975	19 years
Gail Jones	Sept. 25, 1976	15 years
Anthony Devlin	Feb. 24, 1976	54 years
Babies Anderson (twins)	May 5, 1976	
Angus MacPerson	May 18, 1976	73 years
William O'Hara	June 30, 1976	63 years

Francis Gottenbos	Apr. 26, 1977	76 years
Rosetta McGonigal	June 8, 1977	94 years
Mary O'Hara	Sept. 12, 1977	58 years
Ellen Quinn	Oct. 14, 1977	79 years
John McGonigal	Aug. 11, 1978	51 years
Thomas Gerald Ferris	Nov. 2, 1978	47 years
William Wallace Rice	Nov. 27, 1978	70 years
John Shultz	Jan. 15, 1979	19 years
Robert Logue	Oct. 6, 1979	
John McManus	Apr. 14, 1980	60 years
David Hunter	Apr. 19, 1980	74 years
Elizabeth Connor	Apr. 30, 1980	60 years
Rosetta McGonigal	June 9, 1980	65 years

MARRIAGES IN THE PARISH OF ST. BRIDES

William Jackson	Margaret Anderson	Jan. 28, 1928	Rev. McIntyre
Cecil Frederic Thomas	Kate McPherson	Apr. 11, 1929	Rev. McPhee
Francis Carson	Jean Belle MacDonald	July 15, 1929	Rev. McPhee
Arthur O'Neill	Katleen O'Hara	Oct. 8, 1929	Rev. McPhee
Prosper Despins	Elizabeth McGrath	Nov. 5, 1929	Rev. McPhee
George Hunter	Anna Gagnon	Nov. 28, 1929	Rev. McPhee
Daniel Calliou	Myrtle Dorothy Rice	May 3, 1930	Rev. McPhee
John Dripdale	Annie Kednysky	May 27, 1930	Rev. McPhee
Wallace Rice	Helen Calliou	July 14, 1930	Rev. McPhee
Eusebe Leroux	Jessie MacDonnell	Oct. 27, 1930	Rev. McPhee
Roch Bussiere	Yvette Thauvette	Nov. 4, 1930	Rev. McPhee
Elmer Calliou	Alice Laderoute	Jan. 5, 1931	Rev. McPhee
Reese McGinnis	Claudia Laflamme	Nov. 17, 1931	Rev. McPhee
Francis McGaguay	Sarah Logue	Oct. 11, 1932	Rev. McPhee
Edward Harold Pearson	Myrtle Hatera	May 26, 1933	Rev. McPhee
James Lawrence Ingram	Ernestine Gagnon	July 3, 1933	Rev. McPhee
John Whelan	Mary Ellen Duffy	Nov. 16, 1933	Rev. McPhee
Joseph Kirkpatrick	Bridget O'Hagan	Nov. 16, 1933	Rev. McPhee
Allan McDonald	Alberta Pike	Nov. 28, 1933	Rev. McPhee
John Kirkpatrick	Josephine Campbell	Nov. 29, 1933	Rev. McPhee
Augustine O'Neill	Florence Kossawan	Nov. 6, 1934	Rev. Carter
Arthur Ayotte	Aurore Hurtubise	Jan. 7, 1935	Rev. Carter
Archie McGonigal	Rose Kirkpatrick	June 15, 1935	Rev. Carter
Alexander MacDonnell	Mona Kirkpatrick	Oct. 23, 1935	Rev. Carter
Joseph Poirier	Lottie Sutherley	Jan. 26, 1936	Rev. Carter
Charles Henderson	Ervina Bellerose	Oct. 26, 1936	Rev. Carter
Pete Oleniuk	Doris Therese Malysh	Nov. 5, 1936	Rev. Carter
Donald James Wickins	Germaine Marie Clermont	Oct. 12, 1937	Rev. Carter
William O'Hara	Mary Elizabeth Quinn	Nov. 4, 1937	Rev. Carter
Patrick McGonigal	Elizabeth O'Neill	Nov. 25, 1937	Rev. Carter
Hughie McPerson	Kathleen McLaughlin	Feb. 3, 1938	Rev. Carter
Joseph O'Driscoll	Aline Belzil	Jan. 11, 1938	Rev. Carter
Patrick Kirkpatrick	Kathleen Logue	Oct. 12, 1938	Rev. Carter
Lucien Hebert	Marie Ida Gonneville	Oct. 16, 1938	Rev. Carter
Charles McGonigal	Margaret Smallwood	Nov. 15, 1938	Rev. Carter
Percy Stephen Hawke	Maria Calliou	Dec. 27, 1938	Rev. Carter
Fred Poitras	Margaret Calliou	Jan. 28, 1939	Rev. Carter
Laughey MacMillan	Mary O'Dwyer	Apr. 11, 1939	Rev. Carter
Octave Hurtubise	Alexandrine Ayotte	July 18, 1939	Rev. Carter

Conrad Hebert	Eileen McManus	July 24, 1939	Rev. Carter
Albert Tremblay	Edna Berlinguette	Nov. 6, 1939	Rev. Carter
Patrick O'Neill	Lena Chornohus	Nov. 8, 1939	Rev. Carter
Alfred Gear	Ellen Quinn	Nov. 9, 1939	Rev. Carter
Armand Bouchard	Evangeline Germain	Apr. 2, 1940	Rev. Carter
John McManus	Brigid Logue	June 12, 1940	Rev. Carter
Albert Alex	Mary Ellen Bell	July 4, 1940	Rev. Carter
Michael Slefenderfus	Marie Anna Brault	Aug. 14, 1940	Rev. Carter
Percy Gear	Mary O'Hara	Sept. 19, 1940	Rev. Carter
William McLaughlin	Josephine Doherty	Oct. 29, 1940	Rev. Carter
James M. Jalbert	Marie Boychuk	July 17, 1941	Rev. Carter
Charles Alexander Ingram	Mary Anne Quinn	Sept. 25, 1941	Rev. Carter
Willie Logue	Gertrude Doherty	Oct. 15, 1941	Rev. Carter
Andrew Dolan	Bernadette Doherty	Oct. 15, 1941	Rev. Carter
John Dolan	Maureen Kirkpatrick	Oct. 21, 1941	Rev. Carter
Aurele J. DelaSalle	Sally Quinn	Jan. 28, 1942	Rev. Carter
Peter Nelson Shirt	Mary Steinhauer	July 12, 1942	Rev. Carter
Donald MacMillan	Elizabeth Laverty	Aug. 18, 1942	Rev. Carter
Arnett Austin Ingram	Gladys Brigid O'Hara	Nov. 16, 1943	Rev. Carter
George Hartley	Laure LaPrade	July 24, 1944	Rev. Carter
James Louis Logue	Lois Arlene Olesen	Nov. 9, 1944	Rev. Carter
John Joseph Logue	Eileen O'Connor	Nov. 22, 1945	Rev. Carter
Andrew Thachyk	Helen Brodziak	Oct. 27, 1946	Rev. Carter
Bernard McGonigal	Mary Ellen O'Neill	Nov. 9, 1946	Rev. Carter
John Anton Brodziak	Ann Francis Padlowki	Feb. 10, 1947	Rev. Carter
Ceslaus Adzgowski	Mary Josephine Koncewicz	July 19, 1947	Rev. Carter
Hugh O'Hara	Mary Elizabeth Flack	Mar. 29, 1948	Rev. Heffernan
Alexander Kirkpatrick	Rose-Anna O'Kane	Oct. 27, 1948	Rev. Heffernan
Mark Quinn	Therese O'Hara	Nov. 18, 1948	Rev. Heffernan
Richard Callioux	Marion Henderson	Jan. 24, 1949	Rev. Heffernan
Paul E. Berlinguette	Simone Rita Clermont	Apr. 19, 1949	Rev. Heffernan
Francis E. Brooks	Sarah Quinn	Oct. 11, 1949	Rev. Heffernan
Albert Lyttle	Mary Alice Dolan	Nov. 24, 1949	Rev. Heffernan
Denis P. Duffy	Therese Briget McGonigal	Jan. 31, 1950	Rev. Heffernan
Emil Starosielski	Sheila Marie Salstrom	June 23, 1950	Rev. Heffernan
Patrick John Ferris	Ernestine Simone Gagnon	Aug. 30, 1950	Rev. Heffernan
Joseph Raymond Hunter	Delphine Ward	Nov. 22, 1950	Rev. Heffernan
Patrick Lawrence Logue	Margaret Evelyn Devine	Nov. 28, 1950	Rev. Heffernan
Joseph Hovelkamp	Winnifred O'Connor	Mar. 30, 1951	Rev. Bartley
Marcel Lafrance	Catherine Anne Leroux	Oct. 29, 1951	Rev. Bartley
John Francis O'Connor	Wilhemina Francis Gottenbos	Nov. 21, 1951	Rev. Bartley
Bill Makoweski	Monica Connor	June 26, 1952	Rev. Laberge
Lucien Beaudin	Alice Leroux	Dec. 29, 1952	Rev. Wm. Young
Michael Chornohus	Marie Gottenbos	Feb. 9, 1953	Rev. Wm. Young
Nicholas Bohachyk	Edna O'Neill	Apr. 10, 1953	Rev. Wm. Young
Gerald Vincent O'Hara	Vera McConnell	July 31, 1953	Rev. Pothier
Joseph Connor	Rose Ellen Grous	Oct. 26, 1953	Rev. Young
Thomas O'Connor	Cecile Wengzynowski	Oct. 22, 1953	Rev. Young
James Huppe	Helen Hunter	Jan. 11, 1954	Rev. Young
Reginald Harold Campbell	Beatrice Hunter	June 11, 1954	Rev. Young
Philip O'Hara	M.J. Theresa Blanchette	Mar. 19, 1955	Rev. Young
Joseph Arthur Guilbault	Anne Mae Devine	June 14, 1955	Rev. Young
Henry Joseph Rice	Mary Joanne Hunter	June 23, 1955	Rev. Young
Eree Henry Serois	Olga Podloski	Oct. 22, 1955	Rev. Young
Lawrence J. Sutherland	Rosalie Quinn	Nov. 10, 1955	Rev. Young
John Chornohus	Emiline Lefebvre	June 18, 1957	Rev. Young

George Challman	Kathleen Devine	June 18, 1957	Rev. Young
Roderick Leroux	Elizabeth Roth	Sept. 14, 1957	Rev. Young
Arnold Henderson	Noreen Hunter	Oct. 10, 1957	Rev. Young
Omer Berlinguette	Alma Leclair	Apr. 12, 1958	Rev. Young
Stanislas Digant	Marjorie Henderson	July 1, 1961	Rev. Bussiere
Herby Oscar Missal	Lucille Looy	Oct. 28, 1961	Rev. Bussiere
Cornelius E. Podloski	Carol Ann Tennant	June 16, 1962	Rev. Bussiere
Ronald A. Krekoski	Brigid Devine	June 23, 1962	Rev. Bussiere
Hector Euclid Ouellette	Marilyn Faye Rice	Nov. 10, 1962	Rev. Bussiere
Daniel Connor	Delia Serediak	Nov. 24, 1962	Rev. Bussiere
Michael George Dolan	Lila Frances De Lucia	Feb. 2, 1963	Rev. Bussiere
James Collins	Mary Connor	July 27, 1963	Rev. Bussiere
Gerald Kirkpatrick	Phyllis McGill	May 1, 1965	Rev. Bussiere
Andrew George Donald	Josephine Belcourt	Aug. 21, 1965	Rev. Bussiere
Ronald MacPerson	Pauline Kuzminski	Oct. 30, 1965	Rev. Bussiere
Henry Gogowich	Lois Drewes	Nov. 13, 1965	Rev. Bussiere
Leo G. Delisle	Verna C. Savill	June 4, 1966	Rev. Bussiere
Morris Dacyk	Patricia McGonigal	Nov. 26, 1966	Rev. Bussiere
Steve Krim	Carolle H. Bouchard	Oct. 26, 1968	Rev. Bourassa
Gerard Richer	Geraldine Rice	Aug. 30, 1969	Rev. Bissonnette
Henri Desaulniers	Irene Looy	Aug. 30, 1969	Rev. Bissonnette
Steve Vlodarchyk	Bernadette McGonigal	Apr. 4, 1970	Rev. Noel
John Vandenberg	Elva Looy	July 18, 1970	Rev. Noel
Russel J. MacPherson	Patricia Prenevost	Aug. 8, 1970	Rev. Noel
Louis Chartrand	Mary Dolan	Aug. 22, 1970	Rev. Noel
Ernest Brousseau	Berangere Bouchard	Apr. 17, 1971	Rev. J. Feeley
Joseph W. Garnier	Shirley MacPherson	July 15, 1972	Rev. J. Kochan
Vianney Girard	Bridget R. Kirkpatrick	Aug. 12, 1972	Rev. J. Kochan
Eric M. Mickailyk	Grace. T. McGonigal	May 5, 1973	Rev. Guerin
Robert William Looy	Aline Beatrice Noel	July 12, 1975	Rev. Tetu
Lloyd Wesley Peat	Mary Valerie Dolan	July 10, 1976	Rev. Gagajek
William George	Colleen Ferris	Apr. 2, 1977	Rev. M. Croteau
William Ken Kachur	Marie Ferris	June 11, 1977	Rev. McMahon
Wiefer Bakker	Mary McGonigal	June 18, 1977	Rev. Gagajek
Brian Labant	Patricia Connor	July 16, 1977	Rev. Gagajek
Glenn Ferris	Josephine Laura Frankiw	June 10, 1978	Rev. Lugowski
Lawrence J. Wesley	Rita Angeline Bouchard	June 17, 1978	Rev. Lugowski
William Koroluk	Lorraine Aureore Ferris	June 21, 1980	Rev. Kochan

Copy of Marriages

Dennis G. McLaughlin (In Sacred Heart Church in Edmonton)	Susan Duffy	July 23, 1947	
Roland Pomerleau (In St. Paul, Alberta)	Antoinette Beaudin	Dec. 29, 1947	Rev. Guy Michaud

CORK COMMUNITY HALL



Cork Community Hall in 1951.

In April of 1948, a group of St. Brides residents, feeling there was a need for a community hall, met and held a meeting at the home of Frank Podloski's. There were 15 people present, who all joined as club members at \$1.00 per person. The first members were: Bill Chomyc, Frank Podloski (Red), Sam Dolan, Walter Brodziak, Mike Shepert, Alex Shepert, John Brodziak, Roman Brodziak, Mike Podloski, Alex Hymanyk, Tony Wengzynowski, Frank Podloski, Andrew Tkachyk, Mike Brodziak and Peter Shepert. The first executive committee consisted of: Peter Shepert, Bill Chomyc, Mike Podloski and Sam Dolan.

Even though they had no building site at this time, fund raising projects were begun. Dances, raffles and bazaars were held.

At a following meeting two new members were accepted, Roman Boychuk and John Fodchuk. If permission was granted, there would be a dance at St. Brides School, or a barn dance at Frank Podloski's. A raffle was to be held, the prizes were to be a 4-tube radio, a set of dishes and a gasoline iron.

May 11, 1948, a meeting at Mike Podloski's was held, with two new members joining, Harry Bohachyk and William Saskiw. At the meeting it was advised that the proposed dance at the St. Brides School could not be held, because the Principal denied permission, even though the School Trustees granted it. The Priest refused at that time to give the Church basement for meetings. The plans for the barn dance went ahead, the fee was to be 50 cents per person.

June 13, 1948 another meeting was held at Cork School. A dance at Cork School was scheduled August 1st, along with another raffle, tickets were 25 cents each. It was at this meeting that a delegation was to negotiate, with Pedro Labant, for a plot of land for a building site.

In July, the arrangements were finalized for the purchase of land from Pedro Labant for the sum of \$150.00, located at S.W. ¼ 26-58-11. The hall was

officially named at this time "Cork Community Hall".

Money was not readily available at that time and work was done voluntarily by community members. Tickets valued at 50 cents were issued for work done, and were to be used as admission to dances. Anyone with a truck, tractor or a head carpenter would receive one book of ten tickets for each days work done on the hall. Each member working single handed would receive one book for every two days of work done. Any person or persons willing to join the hall as a member would pay the regular membership fee of \$1.00 plus \$50.00 for a donation.

The first wedding reception to take place at Cork was the Marion Henderson - Richard Calliou wedding in 1949. The fee for renting the hall at this time was \$10.00, the hall being responsible for providing wood for the fire and fuel for the lamps. The janitor was paid \$1.00 per function, duties were to sweep the floor and build the fire.

Continuing on for some time card parties, movies, concerts, and bazaars were some functions held at the hall, to raise funds for the hall.

In 1950, orchestras played for three to five dollars, just to cover expenses, for the building of a stage.

In 1962, an addition to the hall was added on, a kitchen and a dining room.

In January, 1963 the Cork Ladies' Club was formed and they became well known for their excellent catering services.

In 1979, they amalgamated with the Cork Men's Club.

The 1981 executive committee consists of: President, Ron Malone, Vice President, David Boorse, Treasurer, Mary Kossey and Secretary, Louise Jassman. Directors: Armand Lavallee, Sandy Kossey, Sam Dolan, Lila Dolan and John Kossey.

There are approximately fifty members in Cork Hall Club as well as the following Honorary Members: Pete Shepert, Jenny Podloski, John Brodziak,



Frank Podloski barn — Where the first dance was held to raise funds for Cork Community Hall.

Sam Dolan, Katie Boychuk, Helen Rice, Pat McGonigal, Mike Shtybel, and John Kossey.

Following are some of the names of the deceased members of Cork Hall Club: Mary Chomyc, William Rice, Roman Boychuk, Wallace Rice, John Kossovan Sr., Tony Wengzynowski, Charles Henderson, Alex Shepert, William Kozicki, Michael Podloski, and Eddie Podloski. These members were very active in the community hall development.

SADDLE LAKE GAS COMPRESSION PLANT



Saddle Lake Gas Plant, showing ground work for the expansion, taken in the fall of 1979.

The Saddle Lake gas field consists of several small gas reservoirs. The main gas producing pay sand is the Colony at an approximate depth of 1700'. Other potential horizons are the Viking, Sparky, Clearwater and McMurray Sands, which range in depth from 1450' to 2100'.

While some exploration development wells were drilled in the 1960's, the major development of the Saddle Lake gas reserves started in 1974. By early 1975, there were sufficient reserves to justify the construction of a compression plant and gathering facilities. A number of oil companies nominated for capacity in the proposed plant. Operators of 32 wells nominated for a total capacity of 46.7 million cubic feet per day.

By May 1975, a plant site was purchased 10 miles west of the town of St. Paul. Engineering consultants were retained to design the most economical gathering system and to supervise the construction.



M.E.P. engine with a Worthington Compressor brought in to the plant, in the summer of 1980, to increase the H.P. capacity of the Saddle Lake Plant.

Work on the site started in late June and by November 7, 1975, the plant was ready to deliver gas through a 1000 horsepower compressor. The second compressor, a 3000 horsepower, was delivered to the plant site in late November, 1975. Gas from the plant is delivered to the Nova system. Construction of Nova's .35 miles sales line commenced in March 1976 and was ready for gas delivery on July 7, 1976.

In 1980, there were approximately 85 wells connected to the gas compression plant. The Gas Gathering System consists of 125 km of 3" to 12" pipelines. The Compression Plant consists of an office building, a warehouse, a process building, housing the dehydration unit and inlet separator, and the compressor building, which houses the 3 - 1000 horsepower compressors and the 1 - 3000 horsepower compressor.

The cost of the plant, including the gas gathering, dehydrating, wellhead facilities and the 6000 horsepower compression plant is approximately \$7.5 million. The completed wells cost another \$3 million bringing the total investment to approximately \$10.5 million. These costs do not include the lease acquisition costs or the cost of the dry holes drilled in the area.

Dome Petroleum Limited operates the plant and the wells on behalf of the 15 plant and well owners in the area. Dome has hired seven field employees from the St. Paul area to operate this important facility.



Military H.Q.'s Camrose.



Camrose Training H.Q.'s "Hutments".



Willie Cherniasky.



Bill Kostyniuk.



Taken 1941. Gaspard Foisy in the Canadian Army.



William Prodaniuk served in the Canadian Army overseas 1942-45.



Harry Paziuk.



Alderic Foisy, son of Elzear Foisy, in the early 1940's.



Trooper George Aime Simon Canadian Army (Active).



Josephat Beauregard served in the First World War in a United States regiment.



Taken 1919. Wilfred Foisy, 22 yrs. old. The Canadian Expeditionary Force.



Bill Rawluk.



Mike Harmatiuk 7th Med. Regiment.



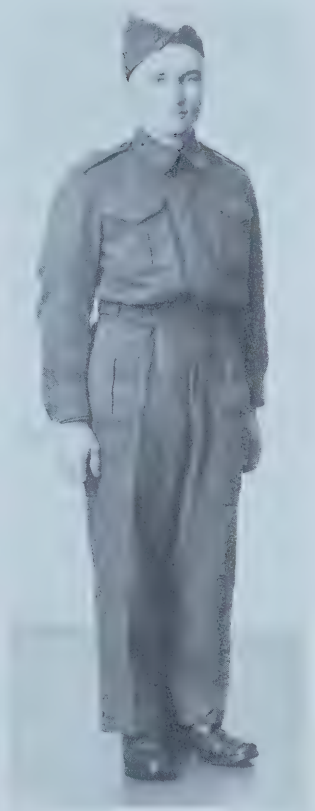
Julien Cote — Deceased 1945. Air Force 1940-45.



The Colonel himself. George Davidson with the Royal Edmonton Regiment — July 1945.



John Brodziak Army 1942.



Joe Kaszefski.



Madeleine Desaulniers, WD.



Corporal Wayne McCullough 1945.



Emile Belzil, friend of the boys, Ted Savill, Ephrin McGuire.



Mr. William Parkinson when he enlisted in 1914.



Photo from World War I. Tony Gregoraschuk, Pete Jacura.



Alphonse E. Simon, 1917.



Jean-Charles Journault 1942.



Edgar McCullough with Mr. Alphonse Simon who was a veteran of the 1st World War.



Foisy, Raymond Euclid. Served the Canadian Army in World War II with the Calgary Highlanders. Son of Daniel Foisy and Thérèse Labine.



Joe Gadowski.



Wilfrid Desaulniers, 1942.



L.A.C. George E. Gregoraschuk — 1941.



Philip Robinson, Artillery. Brandon, Manitoba — 1941.



Richard Larkin, R.C.A.F.



Richard Connor.



Foisy, Victor Joseph. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Wilfrid Foisy. Served the Canadian Army with the Queens-Own Regiment. Peace Keeping in Germany and Cyprus 1956 to 1977. Retired with pension.



Private Germain Leonard Gagne from Lafond. Served overseas for 10 months.



Maurice Laurent Gagne, R.C.A.F. from Lafond, did not go overseas.



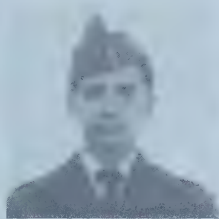
Joe Pigeon, 21 years old. Taken July 7, 1941 in London, England.



Tom McCullough in the Veterans' Guard during World War II.



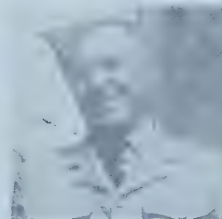
Jones, Memmery F. Royal Canadian Navy, 1964-1976.



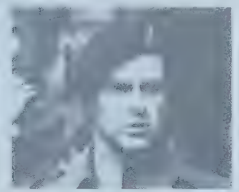
Guy Desaulniers in his cadet suit 1971.



Ed Connor SM110847. 1st Battalion, PPCLI. 1962-1965.



Anthony Desaulniers, June 28, 1942. Hamilton, Ontario.



Bernard Vaillancourt served with the British Columbia Regiment with the 4th Canadian Armoured Division, Second World War. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Delphis Vaillancourt.



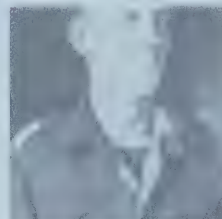
M56381 Pte. Maurice Hebert. 1 Cda. A.S.C. Reinforcement Canadian Army, Overseas.



Joseph Logue.



Theo Graus.



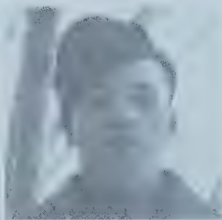
James McManus.



Harry Bohachyk.



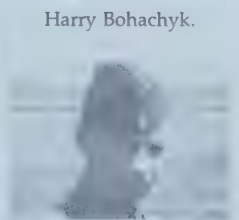
Dennis Paradis, 1970.



1940 — Dmaytro Makowecki in the army at Camrose, Alberta.



Wm. Chmilar, RCAF — World War II.



Camille Paradis, son of Albert and Eva Paradis.



Fernand Couillard, Canadian Armed Forces.



Nick Diachuk.



Frank Podlosky, R.C.A.S.E. 1945.



Trooper Lance Corporal, William Chornohus in Canadian Army, 1942.



Tony Vertypora.



Pte. James Pugh and his wife Jean.



Albert Desaulniers in 1918.



Andrew Dolan on right with a friend.



Ted Savill No. 538301 Medical
Core 1942-1945.



Richard McManus on right with a
friend.



Louis Logue.



Wallace Rice, 1941, Nanaimo
B.C. S.A.R.M. 45722 TPR.



George-Aime Simon — Tank Corp. 1942.



Joe Gadowski, Year app. 1944.



Jean Robinson.



Germain Gagne.



Pierre Robinson.



Paul Robinson, RCA.



Joseph Robert Tomlinson,
19th Alberta Dragoons
1914-1918.



Mike Fodchuk 1942-45.



Gordon Callander lived on
the S.E. 31-56-9-4 about a
year or two, then moved
away.



Call to the Army. Left — Jim Kry, Right —
Bill Worobec.



Archie Maclean, 1940. Currie Barracks,
Calgary, Alta.

WAR MEDALS



War Medals awarded to Joe Pigeon L to R:
The 1939-45 Star
The France and Germany Star
George VI Defence Medal
1939 Canada 1945 Voluntary Service Volontaire
1939-45 George VI Medal



Two of Mr. John William Saunders' War Medals from
1914-18 War.



Mr. Parkinson's Medals
1. Distinguished conduct medal
with bar.
2. Service Medal, 1914-1915
3. Service Medal, 1914-1918.
4. War Medal.



Nov. 11, 1971. Jean, Jacques,
Gerald Robinson.



Lafond Boys at Summer Camp in 1971 — 1st row: Jean Marie Robinson, Guy Lafrenière, Guy Desaulniers, Eugène Journault. In the back row were other boys from the camp.

BANDS



L-R: Steve Petruk, Russell Paziuk, Eddy Yuschyshyn, Jerry Petruk, Richard Zacharuk (Kevan Dilon).



Taken at K.C. Hall in St. Paul in 1969. From left to right: Lionel Malo, Roger Malo, Alphonse Malo, Ray Lafreniere, and two little ones in the middle are Rogers' children Gilbert and Aurelle. In all Alphonse played in bands for over 34 years.



L-R: Reece Demchuk, Bill Demchuk. August 1933.



L-R: Andrew Pearson, Steve Boratynec, John Sadowinski, and Jim Conrad.



Musicians L-R: Bill Halina, John Halina, Peter Gadowski, John Paly — 1936.



Robert Roberge, Roger Malo, Alphonse Malo, Ray Lafreniere, and Sue Theroux the little girl in the middle. The picture was taken at the Cromdale Hotel in Edmonton in 1968.



Sunday afternoon get together on the shores of Lac Sante. The people in the picture are: Wilfred Foisy, Romeo Foisy, Alphonse Malo on the violin, and Archie McLean on the accordion. Incidentally the violin and the accordion are still in existence. Alphonse still has his violin and Danita McLean Malo has the accordion.



L-R: Johnny Cherniawsky, Bill Prodaniuk, Walter Halina — 1949.



The Twi-Lites — 1963. L-R: Steven Yuschyshyn, Russell Paziuk, Eddy Yuschyshyn, Clarence Johnson.



Early Musicians — L-R: John Makowecki, Peter Gadowski.



"The Texas Rangers" L-R: Steve Yuschyshyn, Alex Melynk. In the 1930's.



The Country Aces — 1965. L-R: Jerry Petruk, Russel Paziuk, Bill Semeniuk, Victor Yuschyshyn, Steve Petruk, Walter Billey.



Roger Malo, Jeanette Robinson, Laurent Robinson, Alphonse Malo, Ray Lafreniere.
Taken at K.C. Hall in St. Paul in 1962.

John and Bill Prodaniuk.



A family band from 1978 — L-R: Don Tymchuk, Mitch Bouchard, Russell Paziuk, Dwayne Paziuk, Darcey Paziuk.



The Chychul Band entertained from the late 40's. 1977 — Chychul boys at family gathering. L-R: John, Peter, Bill and Paul.



L-R: Peter Kaszefski, Peter Gadowski, Bill Halina, Joe Halina. 1937 — Mike and Annie Zacharuks' Wedding.

FAMILY HISTORIES

PETE AND MARY AKSENUCHUK

by Lawrence Aksenchuk

Mr. Peter Aksentychuk was but an infant of a year and a half, when he arrived in Canada in 1907, with his parents, Moses and Mary Aksentychuk (Kosmenko). They emigrated directly to Mundare, Alberta, from Russiu-Snatiw, Bokovena, Ukraine. They worked for farmers and relatives in the area. Peter's dad passed away when Peter was only nine years of age. At this early age, Peter was expected to work as a farmhand. He virtually did the work of an adult. At 19 years of age, he met Mary Micholiuk who had emigrated from Lesh-neow, Brody-Ukraine, in December 1926. Mary had sold all her possessions to buy fare (\$220) for her trip to the new world of Canada. Arriving in Montreal, she boarded a train for the West and arrived in Manville with a total balance of \$20 in her possession. Here she stayed with friends. Shortly after, she moved to Mundare where she met Peter Aksentychuk and three months later they were married at the Mundare Catholic Church. Upon marrying, they abbreviated the name to Aksenchuk.

The spirit that opened up the West pervaded the hearts of this young couple who very soon undertook a homestead at Beauvallon. They were employed by Mr. Blacker. From here they found their way to the St. Paul area (1935) where they bought the Popowich farm N.W. 36-56-9-W4 between Lake Eliza and Lac Bellevue on the shores of Island Lake. This farming operation broadened to include three quarters of hilly farmland and large hay meadows.

Braving the many elements that would daunt the most adventurous, Mary and Peter carved out an existence that is replete with incidents of faith and courage. Enduring isolation and sickness, they farmed with determination. Here they raised a family of six boys and two girls (Mike, Emily, Walter, William, Lucy, Joe, Stan and Lawrence). In 1950, they built their first new home.

The children were raised serving their apprenticeship in the great struggle of toil in the soil. The experience of subsidizing the family income by mixed farming was shared by all the family members. Today all the family members live in Alberta and British Columbia.



Pete and Mary Aksenchuk Family - Back row: Joe, Stan, William, Walter, Mike, Lawrence, Seated: Lucy, Mary, Pete, Emilie.



Aksenchuk Wedding — Feb. 19, 1928 — Mary and Peter Aksenchuk, Mrs. Varvara Bohychuk, Mr. Bill Hlebondski.

Mary and Peter Aksenchuk sold their farms to Joe Pigeau in 1964. They then lived and worked in Prince George, B.C. until their retirement in the fall of 1971. They now reside at 4622-114 Avenue, in Edmonton. Peter is in good health but Mary suffered a stroke in 1973 and spends a part of each week at the Jubilee Nursing home. Reflecting on their struggles and hard times, they are grateful for Divine Strength and Providence.

Mike: Born on January 22, 1929, being the oldest of the family, was the first to attend the Lac Canard School, 3 miles away from home. When his school days were over, he spent some time at the farm, and at the age of 19, he left home and went to seek a future in Edmonton. He worked in construction, (carpenter). Today, he owns and operates Oakridge Developments Ltd. Mike married Elsie Dach of Thorhild in 1952, and now they make their home in St. Albert. To their marriage was born Roger Raymond, Brian Michael, Sharon Donna, Bernice Lucy. Roger married Sandy Cloutier of St. Albert, they have one son, Paul. They make their home in Morinville, and have an electrical trade. Sharon married Gordon Antoniuk of Bonnyville, and they now make their home in St. Albert. Brian and Bernice live in St. Albert.

Walter: Born on October 11, 1932, in Elk Point, Alberta. After completing his education at Lac Canard School, he left home at the age of 17 years to work in Edmonton, Alta. It was there that he met his wife Mary Bereziuk originally from Prosperity, Alberta. They were married on July 12, 1955. They have three children, two daughters, Betty Lorna, and Karen Lee and one son Dale Alan. Betty Lorna is married to Barry Stewart Campbell and they have a son David Stewart who is Grandma's and Grandpa's pride and joy. Karen Lee and Dale Alan are single and living in Edmonton. Most of Walter's

and Mary's married life has been running a family business in House Building and Drywall Construction. They are currently living at 127 Fairway Dr. Edmonton.

Emily: Born March 15, 1930 at Beauvallon. After her school days were over, she moved to the city. She worked in different fields and settled for a business career in hair dressing. Emily married Lou Lafreniere from Montreal. It was in Vancouver that she operated her beauty shop for several years. She moved to Mica Creek, north of Revelstoke and there she worked for five years serving the town with her creative efforts. Now they have made their home in Malakwa, B.C. They have two married sons, Leonard has two girls and Eugene, two boys. William: Born at Beauvallon Nov. 26, 1934. He took his elementary schooling at the Lac Canard school. Some of his teachers were Mr. Woroniuk, Ann Poloway, Pearl Valentine, Steve Kalita. He went to High School in St. Paul, Gr. 9-12. Some of his High School teachers were Mr. Beauregard, and Mr. Ed Bouthillier. Upon graduating from high school, he taught in the public school in the year of 1956-57. In the year of 1957-58 he taught in Grande Prairie Separate. He graduated from the University of Alberta with a B. Ed. degree in Edmonton and later acquired his M. Ed. from the U. of A. Calgary. He has taught in the following schools, Calgary Sacred Heart, 1959-64, St. Joseph 1964-71, St. Peter's 1971-75, St. Ann's 1975-80, and St. Catherine's 1980-81 as Principal. Wm. was married to Marg Albert in 1961. They have four children: Mary Beth, Robert, Donald and Tommy all at home. They have made Calgary their home. William is an outdoors man. He enjoys horseback riding, fishing, and trailering. Lucy: The youngest of the girls was born Dec. 13, 1936. Some of her teachers in Lac Canard School were, Pearl Valentine, Ann Halina (nee Poloway), Helen Combs and Jerry Petruk. After she left school she settled on a beautician career. She operated a Beauty Salon in St. Paul for three years. In 1957 she married Joe Krochmal of St. Paul, formerly of Lafond, who was then in the trucking business.



Mary Kosmenki (Aksenchuk) the first new home being built in 1946.



Stooking 1949 at Aksenchuk's farm - L to R: Bill, Stan, Joe.

Joe: Joe was born Nov. 25, 1938. He also attended the Country school of Lac Canard. There he finished his grade nine and went on to St. Paul to continue his education. After leaving high school, he followed a divine calling. He went to Theological College in Edmonton, where he graduated in 1961. He subsequently moved to Vancouver, where he served his internship. Here he met Rose Dubitz (originally from Willingdon). They were married in 1963. He served a pastoral charge in Vancouver, Ft. St. James B.C. and Glendon, Alberta. They have two children, Dwayne and Neil, who are still at home. Joe is presently the Counselling Director for

100 Huntley St., a public Television Ministry. They make their home at 789 Lee Ridge Road in Edmonton. Stan: Born on Sept. 19, 1940, apprenticed to be a bank manager with the Treasury Branch. He subsequently ended up working for ten years with Household Finance as manager of several of their outlets. In the fall of 1967 he and Marilyn Boyda of Elk Point were married. They live in Prince George, B.C. where Stan operates Pace Realty. They have two children, Darren and David. Lawrence: The youngest of the family was born Dec. 3, 1942. He, like his brother Joe has followed a Divine calling. After graduating from Glen Avon High School, he entered Theological College in Edmonton from which he graduated in 1963. For four years he conducted public meetings across Canada and the northern United States. In 1966 he married Diane Iverson from Tioga, N. Dakota. Together they have served in pastoral charges in Prince George, Parkside (Sask) and for the last seven years in Edmonton (Castle Downs Pentecostal Church). They have two children, Heidi and Todd, who are still in school.

MATILDA ALAIN (NEE PIGEAU)

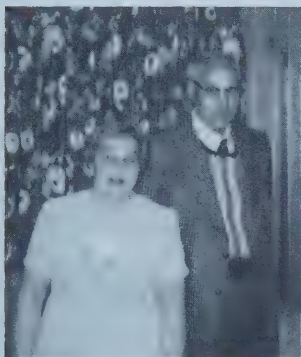
by Matilda Alain:

Being the second youngest of a family of eight, six boys and two girls, five boys the oldest, I don't remember when my parents, Alphonse and Anna Pigeau first came out west, only what I was told by my mother, later on, when I was old enough. My parents came from Neche, North Dakota, U.S.A. in 1902 and stayed for two years in Fort Saskatchewan, where dad worked in the brick



Mr. Mrs. Alphonse Pigeau on their wedding day in Neche, North Dakota, 1891.

yard. Brother Urgele was born there. Elie the oldest, Earnest, Willie and Neil were born in the States. Homesteads were cheap in 1904 so dad took one. Can you imagine 160 acres for ten dollars, he thought he had it made. We joined the rest of the Foisy Clan, not too far from Brosseau. My sister Ida - 1907, myself - 1910 and Joe - 1913 were born there. Dad soon found out he had to work out for a living, so he worked for Brosseau Bros. for a few years, then rented a farm near Big Fish Lake, Lac Sante now. After Big Fish Lake School was built, we all received our education there, the bit we have. It was so isolated, the teachers wouldn't stay long. The boys all got married and left home, so there was just Joe and I with Mom and dad, my sister having married young. In 1926, dad decided to buy a farm about 3 miles west of Lafond. We had acquired machinery, cows and horses by then. My mother could hardly believe it, after all the hardships she'd had. It seems it was harder on her than dad. Then in 1930, she had an accident and died on Sept. 23, my tenth birthday. Dad remarried in 1932.



Mr. Mrs. Clement Alain, 1973.



Mrs. Matilda Alain in front of her suite 1978.

I married Albert Brault, son of F.X. Brault and Lovina Foisy of Lafond in 1933. We farmed for two years, then sold everything and Albert bought a trucking business. In 1941, after eight years of marriage, our first daughter, Jeannette was born and Jeannine was born fifteen months later in 1942. Jeannette married Roger Theroux in 1963. They have four children, Suzanne, Dianne, Pierre and Normand. Jeannine married Arnold Harder in 1965. They have two children, Mitchel and Andrea. They live in Prince George.

In 1943, Albert took sick with sugar diabetes, and died Dec., 27, 1944. After his death, I worked in St. Paul, as chamber maid at the Donald Hotel and as cook at the Lavoie Hotel, for seventeen years, to raise my two girls. I was remarried to Clement Alain in 1961, moved to B.C. where I picked up a brand new family. Clement died Oct. 19, 1975 so I moved back to St. Paul, where I'm now living in a Heritage Home. Now I have two

families to visit me in my old age, thank God. It's good to be well and have a nice suite of my own, to receive my relatives and other friends. We, the Senior Citizens, who live in these fine Heritage Homes, really have it good. We have a recreation room with a colored T.V., a shuffleboard and plenty of room to play cards. In this room, we also have pot luck suppers on special occasions, we have weekly bingos and a monthly birthday party put on by various organizations.

AUSTIN, FRANK AND MARY

*As given by Frank Austin
To Therese Theroux*

Frank Austin was born in Sanders near London, England, on February 27, 1899. He received his education in a Boy Scouts School in London, where he was a boarder. At 14 years of age, he lost both his parents. He was quite at a loss, but a kindly minister took care of him and of his school pal, George Brown. The boys were given a choice to emigrate to Australia, New Zealand, U.S.A. or Canada and they chose Canada, perhaps because in London, Frank had known a school teacher, Miss Phoebe Woodhouse who was then in Canada.

Arrangements were made with her to meet the boys and get them placed in good homes. The boys had a grand time coming over on the boat, as most 14 year olds would. In Montreal, they took the train to Edmonton where Miss Woodhouse met them. Frank was placed on a farm near Edmonton, at Horse Hills with an army man, a Mr. Osborne. He put Frank through his paces. One day George Ames Sr. came to visit and talked Frank into coming out to the Duvernay, Brosseau and Lafond areas. Frank came and was employed by Sam and Garnet English and later by Dick Fife. It was while at the latter place that he met Miss Mary Chester. By now Frank was nearing twenty and this young lady caught his eye. Then he worked for four years for Joe Rioux, for Joe Brosseau, then for the J.P., Wil-



Mr. and Mrs. Frank Austin on their 50th wedding anniversary 1980.



Allen, Roy, Ted, Terry, Front: Alex and Amy Bodnar (1980).

liam Smith, then on towards Chesterville, for Tom Clark. Here again he met Miss Phoebe Woodhouse who was now Mrs. Tom McCullough. He worked for them for a couple of years.

Miss Mary Chester, Frank's attraction and distraction, had come from New Zealand in 1904, with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Chester. In 1915, when Chesterville School opened, she was happy to attend.

Frank tells us that it took a four-year courtship for Mary to decide to marry him. He proudly says, "Mary is the best wife a man could ever have. She dragged me out of the ruts I was getting into, with the wild bunch with which I chummed. Now I can boast that my children have never seen me take a drink. That was left with the past, some 55 years ago. I am thankful and appreciative for her good influence."

We were married March 12, 1930. We rented Joe Henley's farm in Foisy for 2 years and then the Oliver Foisy farm in Lafond. Finally we moved to our own Home Sweet Home in Chesterville, where we worked hard to give a good life to our two



Standing: Ricky, Marcel. Seated: Dave and Vivian Austin.

children Amy (1931), and David (1944). We always had a large garden, raised chickens and turkeys and milked cows.

In 1965, Frank and Mary "damned tired" as Frank puts it, retired in St. Paul. Frank worked for his church, as "jack of all trades" for several years. When Mary became an invalid, he stayed home to attend to her. She is now in a nursing home in St. Paul. Frank visits her daily, keeps the home fires burning, helps at the church and takes his daily walks which keep him young and spry, in spite of his 82 years.

Frank has always been a happy man, despite hard times and hard work. Mary was always most generous — never saying goodbye to her many friends without handing them a big box of vegetables, some eggs or a quart of good, thick, farm cream. Here is a bit about their two children:

Amy married Alex Bodnar. They have 4 sons: Raymond married Joanne Zarowny and they have 2 sons, Clayton and Sauen.

Ted married Doris Champagne. They have 2 children, Ted Jr. and Chantal. Ted is in the Air Force and is stationed at Cold Lake Air Base.

Allen lives in St. Paul.

Terry is still attending school.

David married Viviane Malo. They have two sons: Ricky, 12 years old and Marcel — 9 years old.

THE ASHWORTH BROTHERS

by Oliver Noel



T.C. Ashworth and lady friend — 1924.



Ashworth Bros. house built in 1905 all material brought from Edmonton on the river.

Cyril and Clement Ashworth came to the St. Paul area in 1904 by raft down the Saskatchewan River. They were accompanied by their father and one brother, Leonard.

After spending a few days at the Brosseau Crossing, they were advised of the quality of the land further down river, towards Elk Point.

They chose the land directly north of the Island on the river, below the Myrnam Bridge, namely S.E. 20-55-8 W4 and S.W. 21-55-8 W4, and filed on these parcels in 1905. The father and Leonard filed on some quarters on the south side of the river.

The father remained only two years and returned to Johannesburg, South Africa while Leonard remained until the dreaded disease T.B. got the best of him and he returned to England. He married and moved to Australia upon the advice of his doctors where he died in 1913.

Leonard's widow came to Canada to live with Clem and Cyril in 1914 and remained to the day she died in 1923.

Clem was the farmer of the two brothers, and spent many years without visiting one business center or another. Cyril made all business decisions.



Clem Ashworth during his retirement.



Gert Ashworth wife of the late "Leonard" Ashworth. She came to Alberta in 1914 to keep house for her brothers-in-law "Clem and Cyril".

This picture was taken about 1918, the car is a Model T.

Much could be written about Cyril as he was in business, politics and a promoter of quite a few local businesses, still operating.

In the formation of the Lake Eliza School District, it was left to him to make all decisions and representations to the government, even though he was a bachelor.

The family had named the lake nearest their farm after their mother, Eliza Rhodes, and to this day, we know it as Lake Eliza.

Cyril died in St. Paul in 1968 and Clem in December of 1971, at the age of ninety.

MR. AND MRS. THEODORE AYOTTE

Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Ayotte came from St. Timothee, Province of Quebec, with 2 children in 1909 and took a homestead in St. Paul. Mr. Ayotte, being a carpenter travelled in order to get work, when seeding and harvesting was done.

In 1937 he purchased land in the Lafond district and moved there with his wife and 7 of his 11 children. By then 4 had left the nest. The 2 youngest, Florian and Lionel, went to Cartier school. He farmed there until 1944 when his son Emile took over the farm.

Mr. Ayotte and his wife moved to St. Paul where he did carpentry work until retirement. Mrs. Leona Ayotte passed away in 1967 and Mr. Ayotte in 1973.



Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Ayotte Golden Wedding Anniversary July 13th, 1953. Children in picture, Ronald Ayotte son of Jean Baptiste, Clarisse Ayotte daughter of Emile Ayotte.



The Theodore Ayotte Family of which two are missing — Marie-Anne (Mrs. L. Arcand), Bernadette (Mrs. P. Arcand).

Front row: Florian, now in Edmonton, Mr. Ayotte (father) Sr. Cecile Mrs. Ayotte (mother), Lionel of Edmonton.

Back row: Emile (deceased), Emilia Lavallee, Yvette Van Brabant, both of St. Paul, Rose Leroux of Kelowna, B.C., Florida Belland of St. Paul, Jean Baptiste of Oyama, B.C.

GORDON JOHN BAILLEY

as remembered by William Marsh

Gordon Bailley, born in 1897, came to Alberta from Port Haney, B.C. He came to Lafond, Alberta, in 1924 and started farming the S.W. quarter 35-56-11-4 which he purchased from the Connelly Brothers.

Gordon never got married, was a bachelor all his life but enjoyed the company of his many dogs and cats. He farmed most of his life with horses but, in later years, did get a small Ferguson tractor and equipment. Gordon went away from home very little, but he would go to Lafond every Saturday afternoon for his mail and groceries.

Some years he would go back to Port Haney, B.C., to visit his family for Christmas if he could get someone to look after his farm and animals. If he could not get home for Christmas, he would spend Christmas Eve at Albert Marsh's and New Year's Eve at Ben Marsh's.



Gordon Bailley (1897-1966)
Taken in Lafond on July 18th.,
1951 Going to William and
Stella Marsh's wedding.

Gordon living as a bachelor, had some of the wildest cattle in the country. It took some doing to round them up when he wanted to ship some to market. Gordon was well noted for his honesty and for being a good neighbor, always ready to give a hand.

Gordon farmed until 1962. Because his health failed him, he sold his farm to Mr. Ben Marsh and moved into St. Paul. Gordon passed away in 1966 and was laid to rest in the Public cemetery in St. Paul.

JERRY BARLAD AND FAMILY

by Florence Tymchuk

Fred Barlad was born September 18th, 1927 in Vegreville, Alberta. At the early age of 2 years, Jerry's parents moved to the Myrnam district where they lived for approximately 5 years. In 1934, Jerry and his parents and his brother and sister moved to a homestead in the Lac Bellevue district, which was located on the south side of Lac Bellevue Lake.

Jerry started school at the age of 8 and attended Beela School which was 2½ miles from home. Jerry was the eldest of three children. He had one younger brother Edward and one sister Vera.



The Jerry Barlad Family 1981 — Top L - R Ernie, Larry, Jerry, Gary.
Bottom: Norman, Myrtle, Maryann.

At the age of 15 years, Jerry left home to go working for farmers, which usually was pitching bundles and stooking. He did this type of work for approximately 5 years. Then Jerry thought he would look for something a bit easier. It was in 1948 that Jerry went to work with the oil wells in the Redwater area. This job only lasted some 2 years so when the company closed down Jerry had to look elsewhere for employment. In 1950, Jerry, having some experience working for an Oil Company, went to work in the Calmar/Leduc area. However, this job only lasted some 6 months.

From the early 1950's to 1959 he worked in Edmonton as a truck driver. Jerry then returned home to live with his father who needed his sons with him.

Jerry knew it was time to settle down and start a life of his own. It was in 1959 that Jerry's life blossomed when he met Myrtle Brertton and they married April 29th, 1960.

It was in August of 1960 that Jerry and Myrtle moved to a farm in the Lac Bellevue area previously owned by Steve and Sophie Melnyk. Jerry and Myrtle farmed on this one quarter of land for approximately a year and a half and then Jerry needed more land. He then leased another quarter from Paul Kostyniuk. Being that the farm buildings were better, they moved into the Kostyniuk farm.

Jerry and Myrtle have a family of 4 boys and one girl. Larry, born May 5th, 1961, is presently working in Edmonton. Gary, born January 26th, 1963, lives in St. Paul, Ernie born June 16th, 1964 and at home, Mary born November 9th, 1965 and attending St. Paul Regional High School and Norman, born August 15, 1970, attending Glen Avon School.

In May of 1967, Jerry and Myrtle with their children, moved to a quarter of land situated at S.E. 5-56-9-4 previously owned by Fred and Annie Zacharuk.

At the present time, Jerry is employed by Krawchuk Bus Service and drives the Lac Bellevue route. Myrtle is working at the Galaxy Motel in St. Paul. Jerry and Myrtle also do a bit of farming, land he leases from Marshall Krawchuk.

OSTAFEY (STEVE) KUZMICH BARLAD

by Jerry Barlad

Ostafey Barlad was born February 15th, 1885 in the village of Vedenue in the Ukraine. At the age of 26 years, he left his land, hoping to seek a better future in Canada. He arrived in Canada in 1911 and his first stop was Vegreville, Alberta.

At the time of his arrival in Canada, land was rather expensive in the Vegreville area so Ostafey moved further east to the Myrnam district where he homesteaded for a short time.



Edward Barlad, Ostafey Steve Barlad. Near their home in 1957.



Ostafey (Steve Barlad) in 1963 at his home.

In 1926, Annie Luchuk arrived from Borbyna in the Ukraine and the same year Ostafey and Annie were married. It was while they were homesteading the Myrnam area that Ostafey and Annie had their first son Jerry, born September 18th, 1927. Two years lapsed until their second child, a daughter Vera, was born April 3rd, 1929. They continued to live on this homestead until 1932 when the third child Edward was born September 16th, 1932. During all the hardships, Ostafey took jobs working for farmers in the Vegreville district. There was no means of transportation at the time so Ostafey walked to and from work, leaving on a Sunday and returning at the end of the week, earning enough money to barely buy the essentials needed to feed his growing family.

It was on February 15th, 1932 that Ostafey wanted some land of his own. He then decided to move to the Lac Bellevue district where he purchased a homestead south of Lac Bellevue Lake, N.W. 31-55-9-4. Ostafey, with his sons Jerry and Edward farmed this homestead for approximately 23 years when Edward purchased his own quarter of land located N.W. 12-56-10-4 and Ostafey moved to live with his son Edward.



Vera Barlad (Martin) 1957.

It was in 1945 that Ostafey's daughter Vera left home to seek work. Her first employment away from home was for Mary Gadowsky, doing general duties around the house. In 1947, Vera quit her job at the Gadowsky's and went to work in Edmonton as a waitress until approximately 1955. In 1955, Vera married Roy Martin and moved to Fort Langley, B.C. They have one son Ernie who resides in Fort Langley, B.C. as well.

On June 18th, 1966, tragedy struck when Edward's tractor overturned and Edward lost his life at the age of 34 years. At this time, Ostafey was unable to live alone so he moved to live with his son Jerry and daughter-in-law Myrtle at S.E. 5-56-9-4. Only one year passed until his health failed. Ostafey passed away December 8th, 1967 at the age of 82 years.

THE CHILDHOOD MEMORIES OF NATALIA BAYRACK

by Natallia (Bayrack) Yuschyshyn

My father and mother came to Canada from the Ukraine in 1913. Harry and Malvina Bayrack had three children: Walter, Jeroslaw and Nadia. The family came to Calgary as they had some friends there.

I, Natalia, was born in Calgary on April 1st, 1914. My parents stayed in Calgary for awhile and then moved to Lake Eliza to join some friends they knew from the Ukraine. These families had homesteads in the area. My father also got a homestead in the Lake Eliza district. On the homestead, he built a house, barn, chicken coop from mud plastered logs with thatched roofs. They had a few cattle, a couple of horses and some chickens.

The bush that covered the land was heavy and had many trees large enough to make logs from. His homestead had a large lake so he made hay, as many in the area did, with a 'cosa', a long handled cythe and a sickle, cutting the grass by hand.



Picture taken in the Ukraine prior to the Bayrack departure to Canada.

L-R Mrs. Bayrack, Walter Bayrack, Grandfather Bayrack, Nadia, Mrs. Bayrack's sister, Jaraslaw.

Close to the house the family built a peech or piats, an outside oven made with clay. Many families also made these as it was the customary way to bake bread. I remember that life was very busy for my father as he was a good hunter and spent time away hunting for food. He also travelled away to work at odd jobs and to work in the coal mines — I think in the Drumheller area. When I was very young, about 3 or 4 years old, a younger sister was born. Verka was about 2 years old when tragedy struck. She was playing by the stove while my mother was cooking. My mother had to turn quickly to see something that was happening with



Mr. Hancharuk at age 86, taken in Edmonton.

my sister and the long open sleeve of her blouse caught on the handle of a large pot of boiling water. Accidentally, this spilled the boiling water over my sister and she was badly scalded and passed away shortly after. I remember my father was away much of the time as I mentioned, hunting and doing odd jobs.

In the early twenties, there was a lot of sickness in the area. Typhoid fever was all over and many neighbours and family members were ill. In the spring of 1923, my older sister Nadia, who had been away working in St. Paul caught the fever and passed away. My mother, Malvina, heart broken, also became ill and passed away a month later. My father, Harry went away working and I was left with my 4 brothers, the two older ones, Walter and Jeroslaw, and two younger ones, Merslaw (now called Roy) and Alex (Alexander). It was very hard times for us after my mother passed away. Children had to do adult jobs. My dad remarried a woman that he knew from the old country.

By the time I was about 12 years old, my Dad sent me to Edmonton to stay with my Uncle Harry and Auntie Emilia. My Auntie found me a place to stay where I babysat and helped with the house work in exchange for room and board while I was going to school. Several years passed and my Dad moved into Edmonton so I stayed with him and my stepmother for awhile.

In 1928, my brother Walter, who remained farming in the Lake Eliza area, was married to Martha. I came out for a visit and did not go back to Edmonton. While I was staying with my brother Walter, I married Peter Yuschyshyn, whom I had known from before. With my marriage to Peter in 1930, that was the end of days as Natalia Bayrack, now I am a Yuschyshyn too.

JACK A. BEATON —

submitted by Mr. H. Wilkinson, Mannville, Alberta.



Christmas Gathering at Wilkinsons — 1935.

With Neighbors: Melvins, Steve Oias, Manford Hopey, Gordon Bailey, Ken Bowles, Grandfather, J. Connelly and on far right on picture, Mr. J.A. Beaton.

Mr. Jack A. Beaton came to the Johnston School area, (later known as Many Lakes) prior to 1925, from a small place called Toralee, located between Bruce and Viking, Alberta. He came with his father, Alec Beaton who filed for homestead N.W. 7-59-9-4 in 1924. (Not sure).

J.A. Beaton was a veteran from the 1914-18 war; during this time in the army he was badly gassed. Jack was a bachelor. He had a sister, a Mrs. Ruth-erford who lived in Edmonton.

Mr. J.A. Beaton was active with the Johnston School Board and later was Secretary Treasurer for the Many Lakes School, during the changeover from Johnston School 4130 to Many Lakes School 4130.

Mr. J.A. Beaton was very well liked by all who had known him. He was a resident of St. Paul until his passing in 1936.

THE BEAUREGARDS:

by Marie Ange Lavoie

Josephat Beauregard (Toutant) and Hilda Anderson married in Seattle, Washington. They moved to Lafond in 1920 where they bought the Brunelle Brothers (Pete and Albert) farm, through the Soldier Settlement Board.

Josephat served in the first World War in the United States regiment.

They had four children, Ruth, Harry, Arthur and Albert.

Ruth, the oldest, married Elzeur Hurtubise of St. Paul. They farmed successfully for several years, then sold the farm to their son Alcide and retired in St. Paul. They had twelve children.

George married Lucie Lavouette of Quebec. They had two boys and are now residing in Ottawa.

Marie Claire and Marie Rose twin girls.

Marie Rose is a Grey Nun living in Edmonton.

Marie Claire married Paul Keroack and went to Calgary. They had five children. Her husband died in 1978.



Back row: Henri Beauregard, Arthur Beauregard, Grandmother Jean Toutant, Ruth Beauregard — Front: Josephat Beauregard, Henri's brother, Mrs. Josephat Beauregard and baby Albert, Father Laurent Bussiere.

Raymond married Georgette Normand of Mal- laig. Ray is Assistant Manager at the Co-op Build- ing Supply Center in St. Paul. They have four children.

Larry married Louella Binette. Larry is a car- penter in St. Paul. They have four children.

Marie Ange married Gerry Sutherland. They are stationed in Lloydminster with a family of six children.

Alcide married Suzanne Richer. They live on the family farm with four children.

Roger of Edmonton married a Bohvian girl, Amparo. They have two children.

Alphonse in Elk Point married Gail Monetta. Alphonse is a carpenter and clerk in the Co-op Hardware Store now. They have two children.

Jean Marie died at 3 months.

Carmen 23 is single and living at home.

Mitch is single and employed at present, in the St. Paul Co-op Store.

That is quite a huge family tree!

Harry Beauregard second child of Josephat and Hilda, married Eva Therien and they are living in Vancouver — no family.

Arthur Beauregard — 2nd World War Veteran — single — died in 1979.

Albert Beauregard married Marge Bolthozar. They adopted two children: a boy and a girl. He studied in France, then was employed at the Que- bec Iron Works. Albert died of a heart attack in 1970.

Josephat Beauregard (Toutant) sold his farm to Hubert Lavoie in 1933 and retired in Vancouver. He died in 1948 and Mrs. Beauregard died in 1958.

MARILDA AND ALEX BELOIN

by Russell Paziuk

Mr. Alex Beloin, a Quebecer born in 1891, came to the St. Paul district as a young man. He married Marilda Drolet in 1917 and farmed in the Lac Can- ard area to approximately 1928. Marilda, the eldest daughter of Arthur and Severine Drolet, was born in Ontario, and accompanied her parents to first the Brosseau area in 1904, then the Lac Bellevue district in 1914.

From the Lac Canard area, the Beloin's moved to Delmas, Saskatchewan in 1928.

Mr. Beloin passed away in 1973 at an age of 82. As of this writing, Marilda is living in a nursing home at North Battleford, Saskatchewan and is 81 years young.

The Beloins had a family of sixteen children.

THE LEOPOLD BERGERON FAMILY

by Simone Bergeron (Couillard):

I, Simone (Couillard) Bergeron, eldest child of Philippe and Marie Louise Couillard, was born thir-

teen days prior to the signing of the Armistice in 1918.

Ironically enough, on July 15, 1940 in the early years of World War 11, at a time when conscription was imposed by the Canadian Government, I married Leopold Bergeron, eldest son of Napoleon Bergeron and Eva Tessier.

He too was born in the last days of World War I, on September 11, 1918.

We purchased our farm S.E. 21 from Ovila Jean in 1940 and moved there on October 13, 1940. It was bleak at first with only the bare necessities: old furniture, old scrub board followed with an old hand-washing machine and, a Vega cream separator. We hatched our own chickens and turkeys and we used horse-drawn machinery for farming. Our house was heated with wood only and as a result, we woke up to ice in the water basin in the morning.

I remember the first nine pounds of butter that I made by hand, in a pail and sold on November 1, 1940 at 20¢ a pound. We especially remember the summer of 1941, as our crop was hailed out 100% and we had no insurance. Hail was so bad that it broke a west window and came bouncing into the house.

In 1943 we purchased our first car, an old 1927 Chevrolet, which we resold for \$150.00 and soon after, we bought a 1937 Ford, also second-hand.

We built a big barn on our farmstead with the help of carpenter Emile Ayotte, in 1944. It served as a dance hall for Louis Tremblay and Rose Lafreniere's wedding dance and a few barn dances.

In February, 1945, I purchased my first gas washing machine which I ordered from Winnipeg, through a newspaper advertisement. The first person to use it, was my hired help, Antoinette Guindon.

A note about 1946. Sugar was rationed at the time so we kept bees. We ate so much honey that our stomachs felt as if we shouldn't eat anymore for the rest of our lives. It was also the year that I canned 245 quarts of vegetables and fruits.

After the war, it was once again possible to buy the machinery we needed, so in 1947 we purchased a cream separator 3S McCormick, in 1948 a Ferguson tractor with plow, in 1949 a brand new green Mercury, a Cockshutt tractor in 1950, a power binder and new gas washing machine in 1951, a threshing machine and (sweep) overhead loader in 1952. This last machine, the sweep, gave us more problems than we've ever encountered, as a matter of fact, we resorted to horses to finish picking up bundles and stooks for threshing.

Better things were in store with the advent of electricity in 1953. My old Singer sewing machine was replaced with my first electric one, an Elna supermatic. Our battery-pack radio gave way to an electric one. We changed the washer's gas engine to an electric motor and purchased an electric iron to replace sod irons, and we bought electric motors for pumping water. It was now possible to buy all kinds of kitchen appliances, so we added a freezer and a fridge, and more farm machinery as money permitted.



Leopold Bergeron Family:
Sitting L. to R. Rachel Dupuis,
Simone, Leopold, Dolores and
Germain. Standing: From L. to
R. Florence Winchester, Gerard,
Daniel, Henri, Michel and
Helena Ouellette.



The crew that sawed our wood for heating purposes. Standing L. to R. Napoleon Bergeron, Leopold Bergeron, Ernest Tremblay, Rolland Bergeron, Napoleon Tremblay. On the tractor — Marcel Bergeron.

The winter of 1955-56 proved to be hard indeed. We had an exceptional amount of snow and the children missed school from March 22 to April 11. The road near our place was finally opened with caterpillars on April 12. Travelling on newly-opened roads was like going through tunnels; the snowbanks were so high.

In the fall of 1957, we bought a pull-type swather but we didn't get all of our crop in, until the spring of 1958.

On April 6, 1960 we moved to N.E. 1/4 of 21 after spending twenty years on our old farmstead. This new home was the farm on which Napoleon Bergeron, Leopold's dad, had farmed since coming to the Lafond region.

Better vehicles and machinery appeared on our farm in the early 60's, such things as a new Meteor 1961, a truck 1961, a Diesel C.C.I.L. tractor 1961 which was soon replaced with a Deutz in 1963, a self-propelled swather in 1961, a Black and White T.V. in 1963, a garden tractor and lawn mower in 1964. If the early 60's saw improved machinery and vehicles on our farm, they were also marked with tragedy. On August 18, 1964, our barn burned down. Fire started among the hay bales in the barn loft. Since it was harvest time, Leopold was out in the field with the swather. When the boys gave the fire alert, Rachel phoned Canadian Utilities to come and cut the power and sent her brothers to find their dad. Rather than tire himself out by running across the field, Leopold came home with the swather at full speed. By then, smoke was escaping from the loft and it was imperative to save the combine which had stalled in reverse (by running out of gas) in front of an adjoining shed, as well as the tractor behind the shed and to move the gas tanks to a safer location. The only way to save the combine was to hook the tractor on it and pull it away, but by then, it was too hot to get close. Leo finally managed to hook it to the tractor without getting burned, thanks to his faithful old felt hat and wet

coats. By now the baler was on fire under the shed. With the help of neighbors and friends, they managed to save the machinery but sad to say, we lost some seed grain, all our hay crop, our milker, our cream separator as well as eight buildings altogether. At the height of the fire, a very strong south east wind blew sparks as far away as Napoleon Tremblay's home, almost 1/2 mile away.

We had to bring our cows to Henry's (our son) to milk until such time as we built a temporary plywood shed for the milking. We subsequently rebuilt a barn in November and December of that year. It was ready for use by December 15th, 1964.

We now turned our attention to improving the house. We started remodelling the kitchen in 1966 and added running water in early 1967, as well as a new oil furnace, electric stove, an automatic washer and dryer and a pressure cooker canner. Better furniture replaced the old; new comforts were added such as bedroom suites, chesterfield, chairs, colored television and stereo.

Comforts now extended outside. With more and more land to farm, bigger machinery was a must. The big tractor has an air-conditioned cab and a built-in radio. What a far cry from the dusty horse drawn ploughs, drills, disks and seeders.

Our schooldays were not always the easiest. First of all, we had to get up in the morning to do chores; eat breakfast, make school lunches, dress for school, hitch the horses and be ready by 8 o'clock.

In the summer time, travelling to school was by horse and buggy and sometimes, once in a while, if dad was in need of the buggy for his errands in town, taking the cream, eggs, shopping etc., we had to use the big wagon. You can imagine the "springs" were not too soft. Three and half miles took quite a while when you travelled at the speed of the heavy horses' walk.

Winter time was by "cutter" or sleigh. The worst one was the driver. As for my sister, brothers and myself we would wear heavy socks, felt shoes, two coats plus a blanket to cover our heads, this way we could resist quite a bit of cold.



The famous Sweep, overhead loader which caused us no end of trouble.

As I grew up, I, Simone, had the ambition to learn everything a housewife should know; washing, knitting, baking, churning butter, sewing, mending, carding, and spinning wool. I used to try my luck with the spinning wheel when mom was away. She was always somewhat afraid that I'd break something. As a teenager, I worked out for a few months here and there, for a measly ten dollars a month. This included the responsibility of caring for the children, cleaning the house, cooking and washing for a family.

As far as learning to mix and bake bread, this was quite a chore, because mixing big batches was a lot of work. I was happy when mom took over.

Considering everything, I was always most thankful for the many things I learned at home. They really have helped me in my adult life, but not only myself, also all those to whom I was able to transmit this knowledge.

At this point I'd like to relate a few of the accidents we had on the farm. The first of these was in 1962 when Michel (Mike) was run over by a load of rocks. The load was full, he was sitting on the rocks and he slid with some rocks, right under the wagon wheel. He spent two months suffering in the hospital.

In 1964 Leopold was caught in the power take-off on the tractor while he was unloading grain. All his clothes were twisted and torn off his back. Luckily his leather belt broke, saving him from death.

I too, had a narrow escape in October of 1979 when I was involved in a single car accident with my 1972 Ford. The car was just about a total wreck, yet I escaped with only scratches and bruises.

The greatest joy of our life is our wonderful family. Here they are in order given.

Henri born May 15, 1941 married Aline Vallee April 27, 1963. They had four children: Lillian and Paul — Remi and Raymond (both deceased).

Helena born August 16, 1942 married Andre Ouellette July 7, 1962. They had four children: Mona and Alcide — Guy and Daniel (both deceased).

Rachel born February 26, 1945 married Laurent (Bosco) Dupuis July 29, 1967. They have one child, Lynn.

Florence born May 24, 1949 married Douglas Winchester October 26, 1968. They have three children: Michael, Nicole and Carla.

Michel born September 28, 1951 married Darlene Holt March 27, 1974. They have two children: Richard and Shaun.

Germain born August 6, 1953 married Lorraine Buryn on August 3, 1974. They have one daughter Jodi.

Daniel born April 3, 1955 — still single.

Gerard born July 3, 1956 — still single.

Dolores born November 18, 1963 — taking her Grade 12 this year, 1980-81 at Regional High School.

MARCEL BERGERON

by Annette Bergeron (Guindon)

I was born and raised on a farm three miles north of Lafond. My parents were old pioneers of the west, my father Oscar Guindon was born in 1877 in Lac St. Jean Quebec, and at an early age came west like so many others to homestead. His first home was a little log shack he built for himself and lived in it for a number of years till he married my mother. My mother Alice Bouchard was born in 1897 in Prud'homme Saskatchewan. Later on



Mr. Mrs. Oscar Guindon Family. Back row: Cecile, Oscar, Alice, Middle row: Antoinette, Annette, Bernard. Front row: Denise, Georgette, missing Maurice.

moved to Morinville Alberta, then met and married my father. In the meantime they were busy clearing land, raising cattle and my father even grew his own tobacco. They were also busy raising a family. Eight children were born, two sons Maurice and Bernard and six daughters, Cecile who died when



Mr. Mrs. Oscar Guindon with four of their children and a friend, Mrs. Joseph Tremblay, in the tobacco field.



Marcel and Annette Bergeron's 25th Wedding anniversary with their original bridal party, August 10, 1974. Jeanne Lepine, Gabrielle Foisy, Annette, Marcel, Fernand Couillard and Euclide Lepine.

only a few months old. A second daughter Cecile now deceased also, Antoinette, Denise, Georgette and myself. When we were old enough to go to school we went to Cartier School one mile from home. We walked, in winter often with snow up to our knees and in summer through mud. When my brothers were old enough, they had to work in the fields. I remember on very hot days when they had to walk behind the harrows all day, they came home at night very tired. It wasn't always easy.

My parents moved to St. Paul in the early 1950's and lived there till my father died in 1957 at the age of 80 and my mother died August 30, 1975 at the age of 79.

On the 9th of August 1949, I married Marcel Bergeron, son of Napoleon Bergeron, another old pioneer of the west. We settled on the old homestead and farmed. We had three children, one son Camille and two daughters, Jeannine and Irene. In 1960, we moved to Grand Centre where my husband worked at a few jobs, first as a painter, then a driver for Northland Van Lines and Robertson Moving, then as a cleaner for Canadian Armed Forces, and now as a janitor at Grand Centre High School, where I also have been working for the past eight years.

MR. AND MRS. NAPOLEON BERGERON (NEE TESSIER)

by The Family

Napoleon Bergeron was born August 5th, 1878, at La Baie du Febvre in the lovely Province of Quebec. He was the second child born to Gregoire and Agnes Bergeron (nee Dionne). His father was the victim of an industrial accident and died two months before Napoleon was born. When he was

eight years old, his mother passed away after a long illness, leaving him and his brother Edgar orphans. Having lost his parents at such a young age, his Uncle and Aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Urbain Barbeau, took Napoleon into their home to raise and educate him. He received most of his schooling in Boarding Schools and managed to complete grade nine.

As a young man he worked on his Uncle's farm for a few years. During the winter months, he would work in logging camps to earn extra money. One day, while driving logs on the river, he slipped and fell into the water. He managed to float back to the top safely, holding his hat tightly in his hand and his pipe still in his mouth. This experience brought an end to his logging ambitions. He then went to work in a cheese factory becoming a professional cheese maker.

In 1906, Napoleon came to Fort Saskatchewan with his uncle, Joseph Millet, who was an architect. Being a cheesemaker by trade, Napoleon immediately found employment at the local cheese factory, where he worked for a year. Meanwhile, his uncle was busy doing carpenter work. Knowing only the French language and wanting to learn English, Napoleon took night classes. To him, becoming bilingual was a great asset in the west.



Napoleon and Eva Bergeron taken in 1947.



The Napoleon and Eva Bergeron
Family 1940.
Simone, Gertrude, Eva, Roland,
Napoleon, Gabrielle, Leopold,
Roland.

His attraction to the land made him abandon his cheese making trade in Fort Saskatchewan, therefore, on September 26, 1907, he took a homestead in the Lafond District (N.W. -2-57-11-4). He soon discovered that this parcel of land was very rocky; similar to what he had experienced on his uncle's farm down East, where there were so many rocks that they could build fences with them. For this reason he gave up this homestead and returned to Fort Saskatchewan to the cheese factory. After the reserve had opened, more and better homesteads were available, so on June 22nd, 1909, he filed for the (N.E. 21-57-10-4) and acquired it.

His ambition then was to build a house. He was very fortunate to have his uncle Joseph move in with him and help him with the task. The house was built of logs on a concrete foundation. The exterior was covered with metal sheeting, the inside walls and ceilings were finished in V joint boards, making it a comfortable home. Several renovations have been made since; including power, central heating with natural gas and running water. The original structure still stands and is inhabited by his son Leopold and family. He also built a log barn to accommodate a few horses, cows and chickens.

Like the other homesteaders, he had to make the necessary improvements on his land. Brushing was done by hand and the breaking of the soil with horses.

In 1914, Napoleon met Eva Tessier, and on February 2, 1915 they were married in the Roman Catholic Church of St. Paul, with Reverend Father Le Clainche officiating. Eva, daughter of Henri and

Melvina Tessier (nee St. Germain), was born August 12, 1892 in Acton Vale, Quebec. There she spent most of her childhood and completed her schooling. She came to Alberta with her parents in 1908, settling in Warwick, for one year. In the fall of 1909, they moved to the St. Paul District.

As newly weds, Napoleon and Eva moved into the house he and his uncle had built. As Eva always says, they were fortunate to have such a comfortable house to live in. Being ambitious, they worked together to make a nice place and also bought and developed more land. Other buildings were built as the need arose.

Napoleon would haul his produce to Vegreville, the nearest railroad. He would then bring back some merchandise for the home or at times



The Bergeron Family 1934.
Napoleon, Gertrude, Gabrielle, Roland, Eva, Marcel, Leopold
Simone Missing.

he would bring back merchandise such as flour, twine, sugar and wire for a local merchant, Mr. Joe Hoolahan. These trips would take about a week and sometimes the freight charges wouldn't cover his expenses.

The Barbeau Post Office was assigned to their house for a few years, while more centralized centers were being established.

Mr. Bergeron was a school trustee for the Cartier School District for a few years and was also hired as Secretary-Treasurer for several years, with a salary of \$10.00 per year. He was also a church trustee for a number of years.

During the winter months, Napoleon would pack his gear and spend some time in lumber camps, mostly the Rocheleau saw mill, making most of the lumber used for the buildings that were built on his farm. When his sons were older, they would accompany and help him.

Mrs. Bergeron would sew all the family garments and made quilts to keep the family warm. She would card and spin all the necessary wool used to knit sweaters, socks, and mitts for the family. Homemade bread and butter were always plentiful. Another task for Mrs. Bergeron was caring for the bees. The hives were placed in the garden, close to the house and barnyard. One summer the bees were really mean, constantly bothering and biting the boys working around the yard. The boys were fed up of this situation so one evening they loaded the hives on the buggy and transferred them to the clover field. They thought they were rid of them, but the next morning to their surprise, the bees were all back bunched on a tree in the garden. After all this trouble, the only solution was to move the hives back and cope with the situation.

Chores on the Bergeron farm were a family task. With 20 horses to care for, 20 to 30 cows to milk by hand, pigs and chickens to feed, everyone was kept out of mischief.

Their first car, a Model T Ford, was bought in 1926, replacing the horse and buggy, roads permitting.

In 1945, they purchased their first tractor, a Model D John Deere, which was a great improvement because until now all cultivation was done with horses. As the years went by and the boys grew older, more land and equipment were acquired. Within a few years, the farm was fully mechanized.

The Bergeron's always loved family gatherings, giving Mr. Bergeron the opportunity to use his talents in singing and joking, appreciated by everyone. Each year, relatives and friends would be invited at Christmas time. They danced and sang till all hours of the night. Food was plentiful and refreshments readily available.

In 1949, they sold their farm to their sons and moved to St. Paul. They spent 10 years of their

retirement relaxing in their new home, sharing their leisure time with old friends.

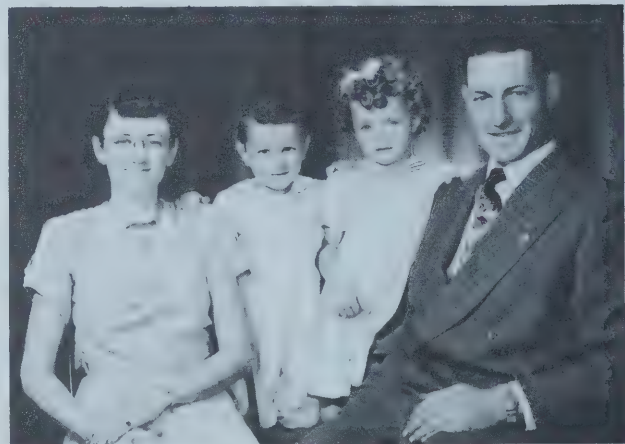
Napoleon passed away December 26, 1958 at 80 years of age. Mrs. Bergeron lived in her home for many years keeping herself busy. She enjoyed knitting, crocheting and sewing for her children and grandchildren. In summer, she would spend most of her time gardening. In 1971, she sold her home and retired to Sunnyside Manor in St. Paul.

In 1975, Mrs. Bergeron was remarried to Mr. Rene Desaulniers. They are presently living at Sunnyside Manor, St. Paul and are enjoying good health.

The Bergerons were blessed with 6 children, 35 grandchildren and 53 great grandchildren. Simone (1915) married Paul Blouin and they are living in St. Paul, Alberta. Gertrude (1917) married Omer Lafrance and they are living in Kelowna, B.C. Leopold (1918) married Simone Couillard and they are living in Lafond, Alta. Roland (1921) married Antoinette Guindon and they are living in Castlegar, B.C. Marcel (1924) married Annette Guindon and they are living in Grand Centre, Alta. Gabrielle (1926) married Aime Foisy and they are living in Lafond, Alberta.

ROLAND AND ANTOINETTE (GUINDON) BERGERON

by Mrs. Antoinette Bergeron



The Roland Bergeron Family — 1949 — Antoinette, Albert, Juliette, Roland.

I was born April 15th, 1926 in Lafond, daughter of Oscar and Alice Guindon (Bouchard). I lived on a farm 3 miles from Lafond. I went to Cartier School to grade 9. I married Roland Bergeron on December 27th, 1945. Father Mailloux was the one who officiated at our wedding. We had 2 children, Juliette and Albert. We farmed on Ernest LaBoeuf's farm for a few years. Later we moved to Grand Centre Alberta where Roland worked at the Cold Lake Airport. In 1953 we moved to B.C. where Roland joined Ceminco Smelter in Trail and is still working

there as a carpenter. We lived in Montrose for 14 years, then we lived in Blueberry Creek for 12 years and we just recently moved to Castlegar, B.C. Our daughter, Juliette married Nick Orlesky. They have 3 children, Douglas, Darrell and Elaine and live in Rutland, B.C. Our son Albert married a hair dresser, Betty Alex. They have two girls, Lana and Leslie. Albert works at the Castlegar Pulp Mill.

EARLY YEARS OF JAMES FELIX AND ANNA RUTH BERLINGUETTE FAMILY

James Felix Berlinguette, endowed with courage and the spirit of adventure of his father, was only 13 years of age when he came west with his parents. His father, Zotique Berlinguette, had been to the Klondike, but, unfortunately, returned home to Quyon, Quebec, without the coveted "pot of gold". However, spurred on by the lure of the West, he sold his property, and took his wife and children to Alberta. The family travelled by "colony cars", taking what belongings they could, and settled in the Wetaskiwin area in 1902. During that year, young Felix lived with an elderly couple in order to attend school. In 1903, the family transferred its belongings by wagon train to the settlement of Warwick, some twenty miles north of Vegreville. There, the Zotique Berlinguette home became a stopping-place for freighters; all the while, the family carried on a successful ranching operation near the Vermilion River. At this time, in 1909, Felix filed claim to a homestead in Brosseau. Nonetheless, the call to move on still made itself heard and Felix sold his first property and came to the St. Paul area. Here, he purchased a half section of soldier's script which was situated near Owlseye (West half, Section 28, Township 58, Range 10).

The enterprising youth was determined to make a good living out of this promising land. He built his first cabin not too far from Jack Salts'.



James Felix stands in one of his field of stooks.

Besides himself, this house also sheltered his two horses and a colt! It wasn't too long before Felix moved into a fair two-storey building which eventually served as payment to his brother Calixte for funds borrowed from him at an earlier date: it was an acceptable arrangement as Calixte already had a wife and family while J. Felix was still a bachelor. He was, however, an eligible one, and on September 1st, 1914, he married 17-year old Ruth Anna Hurtubise. The young bride had come West in April 1910, from Otter Lake, Quebec, with her parents, Alphonse Hurtubise and Aurelie (nee Tanguay), four sisters and three brothers. One more girl was subsequently added to the family.

In true pioneer spirit, Anna willingly made her new home in a log cabin, and it was there that she gave birth to her first child, Edna, on March 15, 1917. For the young couple, hard work was the order of the day, week after week and year after year. Eventually, outstanding improvements on the farm were made: in 1929, an impressive house was built. Four years later, a dairy barn and a horse stable became landmarks on the farmstead. Then came modernized equipment. Gradually, the five



The great depression of the 30's did not deter J.F. Berlinguette from building this huge complex which housed milk cows, hogs, and horses. The windmill pumped water for the livestock and household needs. The Berlinguette farm won trophies for several years from the northern Alberta Dairy Pool for being their biggest shippers of cream.

gangplows, each drawn by five horses, made way for more modern methods of cultivation. The advent of the first tractor in 1939 followed by other more perfected machinery spelled death to the quack grass era.



The Berlinguette Family — 1935.

The Berlinguettes were not indifferent to the growth of the community around them. The four older children: Edna, Joe, Victor and Paul, had been baptized in St. Paul, but the others were all taken to the Cork Church for their christening. The Cork Hall, in the church basement, was also the scene of card parties, basket socials; the grounds were the site of the Annual Picnic. In a word "Cork" was the centre of the social life.

The children all attended Elementary School at the one-room Belzil School built on land adjacent to the Berlinguette property. All of them had the added opportunity of receiving secondary education in the field of their choice.

In the forties, James Felix, called J.F., by all who knew him, ventured into another business field, becoming owner of the Commercial Hotel in McLennan and of the Vilna Hotel. After a few years, he came to the realization that this type of business was better left to others.

James Felix Berlinguette passed away on January 2, 1954 at the age of 64. By then, he had "expanded his farming domain into one of the largest in the territory which he bequeathed to his sons and left for the posterity of this district and country", (St. Paul Journal, January 1954).

Still in the St. Paul area are: Mrs. Anna Berlinguette residing at Sunnyside Manor, and six of her children. They are: two daughters, Edna (Mrs. Albert G. Tremblay), Cecile (Mrs. Laurent Richard), and four sons, Paul, Omer, Laurier and Jacques, who all continued expanding and improving the original farming operation started by their parents.

The others are as follows: Joe, who makes his home in Edmonton, Alberta; Victor in Drayton Val-

ley, Alberta; Therese (Mrs. Roger Fournier) in Armstrong, B.C., Jean, in Bromont, Quebec and Marguerite (Mrs. Roger Madeau) in Armstrong, B.C.

The Berlinguette name lives on through Felix and Anna's fifty grandchildren.

Information compiled by Edna (Berlinguette) Tremblay

Written by Antoinette Laramee.

THE BEREZANSKI FAMILY

JOHN AND MARTHA

JULIAN AND MARY

by Stephie Chychul (Nee) Berezanski

Grandpa John's and Grandmother Martha's oldest son Basil Berezanski, at the early age of 15, was the first of the Berezanski family to leave his native Ukraine in 1910 to come to Canada.

Receiving many letters from their son Basil, Grandma Martha finally convinced Grandpa John to move the whole family to the vast land of opportunity — Canada.

Finally in the summer of 1912, Grandpa John and Grandma Martha together with their children Joseph, 11 years old, Annie, Entonia and baby Julian, only 9 months old, set sail for Canada from Turnopil, Ukraine.

Docking in Quebec City and then travelling by train to Winnipeg, Canada looked so promising to the new family.

They finally arrived at Round Hill in the Camrose district, meeting up again with their son Basil. They all lived together with Grandmother's brother, Mark Scherbaniuk.

Two years later in 1914, Basil married Mary Dragon. The whole Berezanski family then moved to Basil's homestead, to Slawa in the Myrnam district.

After several years of helping Basil and Mary establish their own homestead, Grandpa, Grandma



First home on the Berezanski homestead. In 1926: back row: Annie Berezanski — Baby Ludwig, Mike Onyschuk, Joseph Berezanski, (Mike Berezanski's cousin to Joseph) Entonia Makowski; Baby Walter. Baba and Gedo John Berezanski.

and their four children moved to the Lac Bellevue district.

There they established Joseph's and their own homestead a few miles away (see Zaharko story).

This left only Entonia and Julian with Grandpa and Grandma, as Joseph went out to work in the coal mines in Drumheller to help support the family.

In 1925, Joseph and Entonia had a double wedding. On Saturday, Joseph married Annie Deputan from Holden and Entonia married Joseph Makowski. The weddings lasted for four consecutive days.

After all the excitement, the Berezanskis managed to build a small log cabin on the adjoining quarter of land. This was their own homestead.

They moved to their homestead with Julian who at the time was but a young boy attending Henley School.

At the early age of seventeen, Julian married Mary Burak, daughter of Sam and Helen Burak (see Burak story).

Julian and his very young bride and Grandpa and Grandma continued to clear the land using an axe and (biaga) a pick like tool, and a horse.

During this long and hard process in a strange land, with a foreign language to them, they managed to start farming. Buildings had to be built out of logs and sod. Little could be done in the winters, as they were very harsh and long.

In 1930, Julian and Mary had their first child, Anna. In the summer, while living and working at the John Berezanski homestead, the young family would move for weeks at a time to Julian's homestead a few miles away.

In 1933, while living in a granary, their second child, I, Stephie was born. It was said to be a very dark and rainy night when I decided to face this world. The neighbors were around trying to help as mother (Mary) had a very difficult time. Finally Mrs. Harmatiuk, a midwife, was brought in to help deliver the baby.

With the help of the neighbors and a hired hand, Joe Bakyk, they managed to build a small barn for the cow and the few horses.

In the winter, my dad and mom would move back with Baba and Gedo Berezanski to their home. **DISASTER** — The following year, 1934 was one which many people still remember. Anna who was only four years old found a lighter in the hay loft of the barn. The lighter was there because the hired man slept in the barn on warm days. Anna lit the lighter which caused the sparks to fall on the dry hay. The barn burned down in no time, taking the animals, the hay and the life of young Anna.

The young couple, with the baby Stephie, moved back to Baba and Gedo Berezanski's place. The family and the community all mourned Anna's death.



1932. Grandma Martha Berezanski; son Julian; Daughter-in-law Mary and their daughter Anna.

At this time, both Grandfathers, Grandpa Berezanski and Grandpa Burak, built a small one room log cottage in the same yard as Grandpa Berezanski's house. It was located on the hill behind Grandma's house.

Two years later in 1935, a son Robert, was born to Julian and Mary. Robert was the first Berezanski birth to be recorded in the St. Paul Hospital.

The Berezanski (Gedo's) white washed house was a very well known place. Since the homestead was centrally located in the district, Gedo's house was always used as a polling place for the Federal and Provincial elections. The house was also used for church services every few weeks. Catechism classes were conducted by a young priest for the first few weeks followed by Rev. Kryzanowski giving the first communion. Rev. Winnick would conduct the young students through their communion during my time.

The Berezanski house was always a pleasant meeting place on Sundays. The elders attended church services and after the service, the younger men tried their hand at horse shoes.

Dances were held in the large log granary. Music was provided mostly by the Halina boys.

Henley School was built only a quarter of a mile from the Berezanski home. Often the teachers would come to Grandma's to pick up milk, cream, eggs and freshly baked bread.

The Berezanski's were compassionate, always willing to help those who needed a hand. They sheltered students on stormy winter days when it was impossible for their parents to get them home.

Christmas was a very special event at Baba's house. All the traditions were carried out. The children waited for the first star to appear on Christmas Eve. While the twelve meatless dishes were being prepared, Grandpa would bring in the (Geduch) sheaf of grain and place it in the corner of the room. He would also put some fresh hay under the table



Four Generations: Great Grandma Helen Burak, Grandmother Mary Berezanski; Mother Stephie Chychul and daughter Elaine Chychul. 1959.

cloth. Baba would hide nuts and candy in the sheaf for us children to find. All the relatives and close neighbors were at Baba's house for Christmas Eve supper.

The Carollers would come by horse and sleigh to carol. When they were gone, the family sat around the table and continued to sing carols. I (Stephie) remember very fondly, falling asleep on my dad's lap while he and my uncles and aunts would feast and carol late into the night.

At Easter, Baba made sure we understood what Easter was about. She would let us children feel important by helping her make the colored eggs (holunki).

Green Holidays were beautiful and something that will stay with me forever. Grandpa would cut young trees that had just started budding and plant them all around the house. Green branches were placed around the doors, windows and on the gate. There always was a church service conducted on this holiday. The house was always freshly white washed.

When I started school, I spoke only Ukrainian because my brother Robert and I stayed most of the time with Baba and Gedo while my Dad and Mom worked out in the field. Thank God for the bilingual teacher, Mrs. Nancy Shemaluk that understood us, and was so patient with us.

A big event was a trip to St. Paul or Myrnam, which did not occur very often. Dad had one of the first Model A Ford cars in the district. It was such a thrill to run up to Henley School hill, to meet Dad coming from St. Paul, just to catch a ride on the running board.

Other occasions to remember were concerts and annual picnics at Lac Bellevue Hall.

Our well was very deep and the water was very hard. For washing clothes and bathing, water was usually brought from a nearby creek by horse and stoneboat in large barrels. Every bit of rain water

was caught during the summer in barrels. In the winter, snow was melted on the cook stove.

To pass the long dreary winters, neighbors gathered at the Berezanski house to play cards, (Woza) make feather pillows and those prized feather quilts (perinas) and to listen to Baba Martha read the paper.

In 1942, Sylvia was born — another girl for Julian and Mary. Mom and Dad broke more land, and had quite a nice lot of cattle, sheep, geese, pigs and chickens. Mom (Mary) would shear the sheep and spin her own wool for knitting socks and mittens. She also made a lot of wool quilts which were handed down to us and are still in use.

Mom also had a very large garden and made extra money for food and clothing by selling cucumbers and cabbage. We also milked twelve to sixteen cows and sold the cream.

Dad tried trucking for a while. He also worked on the road building crews. Every fall Dad would help in pulling the ferry out of the river. In the spring he would always help to lower the ferry back into service.

Dad had a team of dapple gray horses that I'm sure many old timers still remember. They were one of the swiftest teams around. In case of emergency, Spuddie and Maple were often used to go to Myrnam or St. Paul. In the summer it was the democrat and in the winter it was the caboose (built in cutters).

Amidst all the hardships and sorrows, they shared good times so that laughter rang out of their modest dwelling to lighten their burdens and enable them to tackle each task again.

Gedo and Baba Berezanski retired to the village of Myrnam in 1947 leaving the farm to their son Julian.

In 1956 Robert married Olga Mudryk and lived with Mom and Dad on the old homestead.

During the early summer of 1956 Dad and Mom (Julian and Mary) moved to Elk Point which was the beginning of their many moves.

Robert and Olga and their daughter Sharon farmed till summer of 1957 and then moved to Calgary.

Nick Timofichuk, a neighbor and close friend rented the land until it was sold to Mr. Mike Zacharuk after Dad's death. Presently the land is owned by Mr. Ford.

Grandpa John Berezanski died at Myrnam in 1949. Grandma Martha Berezanski died at her daughter Antonia Makowski's in Ranfurly in 1959. Both are buried in Myrnam Catholic Cemetery. My sister Annie died at Lac Bellevue in 1934. My Mother (Mary) died in Vegreville in February, 1963, and Dad (Julian) died in May, 1965. They all are buried in Lac Bellevue St. Michael's Cemetery.

I (Stephie) married Peter Chychul in 1954 in Myrnam. We now live in Edmonton. Peter is in

Sales with the Canadian National Railways. We have three children; Barry is now a CNR Engineer, Elaine is with the Alberta Government and Karen is attending Nait taking Business Accounting.

Robert re-married in 1970 to Joyce Morris and has two sons, Dwayne and Darcy.

Sylvia married Harry Yasheyko in 1960, they farm in the Myrnam district. They have a successful farm and raise some prize cattle. They have four children, Kim is in University taking Education, Wendy is attending Nait, Cindy is in Myrnam High School and Darren attends the same school.

JOE AND ANNE BEREZANSKI

In the year 1900, Mike Sherbaniuk was sponsored by Basil Berezanski to come to Canada. Mike Sherbaniuk was an uncle to Basil Berezanski.

In 1913, Mr. Joe Berezanski; sponsored by his brother Basil, came from Hrinkiwci, East Galicia to Montreal by ship. Mr. Joe Berezanski was 13 at this time. When Joe arrived in Canada, he went to live with his brother Basil in Camrose, Alberta.

Joe started to work at the Welsh Coal Mine situated between Roundhill and Camrose for about 5½ years under an assumed name because of child labour laws. At age 19, he moved to Arley, where he operated a drill machine (in the mines) for approximately 3 years.

In 1921, Joe moved to St. Paul, received his Canadian citizenship, moved to his homestead for which he had applied in 1915 in the Lac Bellevue District. There he lived in a log cabin which he built during the winter, when he was not working in the mines. At this time he worked in the Galiciar Mine during the winter and helped his parents farm.

In the summer of 1921, he went to visit a girl at Holden, Alberta whom he knew about from the



Basil and Joe Berezanski before 1925.

girl's uncle with whom he had worked in the mines.

In the spring of 1924, Joe sat on his trusty steed and made for Holden to see the girl of his dreams — Anne Deputan. After courting Anne for about a year, they were married on the sixth of July, 1925.



The Sherbaniuk home in Camrose — year 1913 — This was the home where the Berezanski family stayed.



Joe Berezanski cutting grain 1925 — Standing Grandma Berezanski.

After the wedding ceremony at Anne's parents' farm (Paul and Nancy Deputan) they went to Joe's parents' farm in Lac Bellevue and had another wedding ceremony there.

Joe and Anne then settled on the homestead Joe had obtained in 1915 and started farming and raising a family.

In April of 1927, Number 1 Berezanski came to life — Ludwig, with the help of midwife Grandma Berezanski. In September of 1928, Number 2 Berezanski, another son, Steve joined the family. In May of 1930, the third son was born — Jerry. In February of 1932, Joe and Anne had their first daughter — Theresa. In April of 1934, the last Berezanski was born — another daughter — Jean.

In mid-summer of 1928, Joe bought his first power vehicle — a Model T Ford.

The first power farming was introduced in 1929, on the Berezanski farm. Joe obtained a tractor which was driven by kerosene and a breaking plow for \$2,100.00. To pay for this tractor and plow, Joe opened most of the land in the Lac Bellevue and Lake Eliza areas for which he received payment from the farmers.

In 1931, Joe obtained the second wooden threshing machine in the area. The first owned by Mr. Halina had burned.

Around 1938, Joe bought a CPR $\frac{1}{4}$ with his Uncle Peter Deputan. Joe had bought his homestead

for \$10 and the understanding to break 10 acres of land each year thereafter. After Peter Deputan sold his half of the CPR $\frac{1}{4}$ land to Joe; Joe then had 3 quarters of land — his homestead, his parents' homestead, and the CPR $\frac{1}{4}$.

Around 1935, Joe bought a Derne V-8 Ford.

Joe's children attended Henley School which was about 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the homestead. After that, the children attended Myrnam School.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Berezanski moved to Morinville, Alberta in 1974.

In 1975, Joe and Anne celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

LUDWIG AND ROSE BEREZANSKI

by Caroline Berezanski

Ludwig, the eldest son of Joe and Annie Berezanski, was born on April 21st, 1927 in the Lac Bellevue district, the farm on which he still resides.

Ludwig attended Henley School. After completing grade eight, at the age of sixteen, he helped his parents farm for four years.

At the age of nineteen, in 1947, he obtained a three ton Ford truck and hauled cattle and grain for one year for the neighbouring farmers. The next two years, Ludwig hauled gravel and lumber for the Counties of St. Paul and Holden.

When he was twenty-two years old, Ludwig decided to take a break from all his trucking, and at a picnic in the Rannock District, met his wife-to-be, Rose Rudkowski. They courted for a year, and married on January 27th, 1951.

For the next eleven years, Ludwig and Rose farmed land on the west side of Lac Bellevue Lake (N.E. $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1 56 10 4). This land is now part of the St. Paul Grazing Reserve.

In 1962, Ludwig purchased a quarter and a half of land from his father in the Lac Bellevue District. (N.W. 34 56 9 4). Here he farmed and trucked part



Anne and Joe Berezanski and Family — 50th Anniversary 1975
L-R Back — Jerry, Steve, Ludwig
Front: Jean (Woloshyniuk), Anne, Joe, Theresa (Rudkowski)



The Ludwig Family 1976. Top row: Brian, Ludwig, Leonard, Lyle, Front row: Caroline, Rose, Marsha.

time. Ludwig hauled logs for Golden Lumber and gravel in the St. Paul District. In 1973, he hauled feed for Master Feeds in Edmonton. Ludwig also worked for the Alberta Wheat Pool for 2½ years.

In 1962, Ludwig and Rose celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary.

Ludwig and Rose are very proud of their five children: Leonard, a purchasing agent for A.P.I. Valve Services in Edmonton; Brian, a mechanic at Riteway Auto Clinic in St. Paul; Marsha, an engineering assistant for Edmonton Telephones; Caroline, an order analyst for W.C.B. Canada, Edmonton and Lyle, an apprentice welder in Edmonton.

Ludwig and Rose are also very happy with their four grandchildren: Chad, Bradley, Candice and Allison.

At the present time, Ludwig and Rose are still farming. Ludwig is also employed part time by St. Theresa Hospital in St. Paul and Rose is working at the Galaxy Motel in St. Paul.

RAY AND ELSIE (Nee Muchka) BERRETH FAMILY

by Josie Schwengler

The Berreths moved to Lafond from Beiseker, Alta. in the spring of 1968. They purchased land in the Foisy area from Annie Polachuk and from John Twerdochlib. They rented the Robert Lamoureux place and made it their residence. During their stay here, they also farmed in Beiseker, driving back and forth. What a courageous and ambitious couple!

In 1971, they pulled their stakes and moved back to the Beiseker area. They sold their land in Foisy, in 1973, to Ken Schnieder, who had moved into the Lafond area from Victoria, B.C.

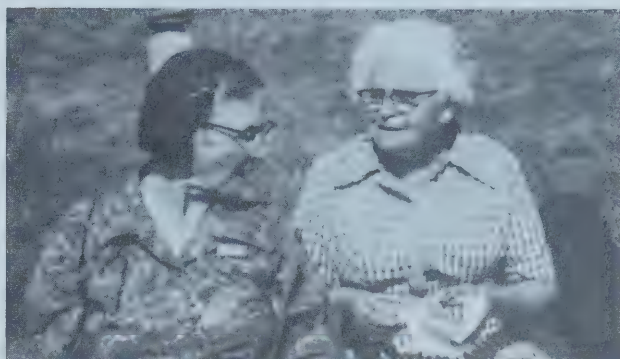
The Berreths now live on a farm, five miles west of Acme, where they built a new home in 1979.

Ray and Elsie say the things they remember best about Lafond is picking rocks and twigs in the summer and the very enjoyable skidoo parties in the winter.

Ray and Elsie have two children: Gregory born in Calgary on June 8th, 1965 and Caroline born in St. Paul on October 16, 1968. Gregory started his grade one in Lafond. He now attends school in Linden, Alta. and Caroline goes to Acme. Greg fondly remembers his Grade 1 companions from Lafond School. Caroline recalls the children from the neighbor with whom she played. The children love to come back and visit Aunt Josie and Uncle Frank Schwengler.

MR. AND MRS. ALPHONSE BLANCHETTE

by Mathilda (nee Drolet)



Marilda Blouin and Mathilda Blanchette, sisters.



Mrs. Mathilda Blanchette, her niece, Doris and her nephew Arthur Blanchette.



Mrs. Mathilda and Joseph Joly, oldest of her grandchildren, with his two boys, Corey and Shawn.

Mr. and Mrs. Alphonse Blanchette were married in 1925. They established themselves on the S.W.¼, 34-56-10-4. They farmed there for nine years, then moved near Jim's Lake. Afterwards the family moved to St. Paul. Alphonse died as a result of an accident in 1944.

Mr. and Mrs. Alphonse Blanchette raised a beautiful family of eight children;

Germaine married Roger Joly (both deceased)



Arthur Drolet children; Marilda (Mrs. Blouin), Helene, Mathilda, Arthur, Jeanne, Hermine, Edouard, Alexandre.

Germain married Gladys Smith, living in Vallemont B.C.

Evangeline married René Charais, living in St. Paul.

Jeanne married Phillip O'Hara of Edmonton. Eveline of Edmonton.

Lise married Nick Charchuk of Myrnam.

Eugène married Agnès Plouffe, living in Vallemont B.C.

Alphonse of Edmonton.

Mrs. Blanchette recalls how people used to have fun at family parties that cost nothing. In the area there were always music makers such as fiddlers, that kept the dancers dancing till the wee hours of the morning. If no musicians were around, one would drum with spoons. Yes, these old timers knew how to entertain themselves.

THE STORY OF JOE BLANCHETTE

At L'Ance Pleureuse it was a great pleasure to Mr. and Mrs. Fabian Blanchette (Evelyn Robinson), when on November 4, 1897, Joseph Fabianna was born into their family after four sisters, Evelyn

(Barnachez), Emilie (Henley), Delina (Robinson), and Clara, who died at the age of three.

His father raised him as a fisherman, as he was. In 1918 he lost his father suddenly and was left in charge of his mother, brothers Alphonse, Edward, and Philip, and sisters Melina (Robinson), Aurore (Sister Blanchette) and Augustine (Foisy).

His mother always disliked the sea and fishing, so in 1919 they decided to make the big move west, where two sisters were already living, Mr. and Mrs. Jean Henley and Mr. and Mrs. Léon Robinson, in the Lafond district.

Their first home was east of Lafond, a two room house with a dirt roof. From there, they lived three miles south of Lafond, the Fortin place. After that Joe and brother Edward purchased a quarter of land east of Lafond from Jean Henley.

On February 15, 1926 he was married to Hermine Drolet, daughter of Arthur and Severine (Girard) Drolet. They stayed on with the rest of the family and had a family of eight boys and one girl. Maurice born January 27, 1927, Arthur May 7, 1928. In 1929 when Edward, who had gone back down East, returned with his bride Regina, they all lived together. Fabienna (1) was born in August 1929 and died at three months. Fabienna (2) was born May 27, 1931.

That year he bought another farm west of Perch Lake, where he built a log house. Joachim was born October 30, 1932, Victor August 1934 deceased shortly, and Alex was born October 1936.

In 1937 they moved to St. Paul and he gave the log house to his brother Alphonse, who took it apart log by log and moved it to St. Paul, where John Henley rebuilt a house on the north shore of Upper Therien Lake. This house still stands, the Tom Hitcherick residence.

Their new home in St. Paul was where the Co-op gas station stands today. It was later purchased



Taken in 1932 Sister Aurore's first visit home from Quebec Postulate. Front row, Augustine, Emilie Henley, Sister Aurore, Mathilda Blanchette, (Mother) Evelyn, Melina Robinson, Regina Blanchette, Hermine Blanchette and Delina Robinson. Back row; Philip, Jean Henley, Alphonse Blanchette, Octave Robinson, Edward Blanchette, Joe Blanchette, Leon Robinson.

by Mr. and Mrs. Gaspard Foisy (Augustine) and moved to where she resides to this day.

Julien was born on September 29, the year they moved to town. As work and money were scarce, Joe decided to go work in B.C. He worked there for five years.

While he was away, his mother and wife Hermine, took in loom work, making blankets and rugs for a little extra money. He kept going from St. Paul to B.C. Marielle, their only daughter was born on July 25, 1943.

They bought another house in town, with a large barn in the back yard, on 52nd Avenue where Rene Charest now resides. There he went into doing work with horses around town, doing express, hauling water, ice, and wood during the winter. By then the older boys, with the exception of Maurice who was working in B.C. at the age of fifteen, were helping out with the business.

Grandma Evelyn passed away in their home after a lengthy illness on September 8, 1953. Joe also worked as a bartender and later a night watchman in the Lavoie Hotel for many years.

In 1968, after all of the family was married and away, they bought a smaller house on 48 Avenue for retirement. His last job was as a night clerk at the Lakeland Motel.

He lost his dear wife suddenly on July 5, 1975, but kept his little house tidy and the garden going, until he also died suddenly July 27, 1977.

Along with his seven children, he left twenty-two loving grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

He was a good Christian, liked by everyone, young and old alike, and will never be forgotten.

SISTER AURORE BLANCHETTE

1909 - 1976

*"Those who have taught justice to their fellowmen
will shine as stars throughout eternity."*

(Daniel, 12:3)

Sister Aurore Blanchette, who gave more than forty years of service in the field of education in the Canadian West, was born on December 23, 1909 at Anse Pleureuse, Gaspé, P.Q. Her father, Mr. Fabien Blanchette, fisherman and farmer, and her mother Eveline Robinson, had twelve children, Aurore being the second-youngest. Three of the children died at a very tender age.

In 1918, at the age of 55, Mr. Blanchette passed away following a heart attack. In 1919 Mrs. Blanchette left the province of Quebec in order to settle on a farm at Lafond, in Alberta. That family uprooting from Gaspé was never forgotten. Aurore frequently sung her praises and her love for the sea, the vast fields, the rocky places where she first saw the light of day. Her recollections were tinted with emotion, supporting once again the old saying

that a portion of one's heart will ever remain at the site of one's childhood days.

Aurore attended primary and secondary school at Lafond. She worked as nursing aide at St. Theresa Hospital in St. Paul Alberta for a short period of time. This provided her with opportunity to become acquainted with the Grey Nuns.

In August 1928, she entered the novitiate of the Grey Nuns in Montreal. In order to lighten her beloved mother's sacrifice of separation, Aurore managed to maintain a brave smile as she bade her cherished family a fond farewell. This courage, this strength of character demonstrated so early, remained very significant throughout her life, even at the ultimate moment of her final sacrifice. She pronounced her temporary vows in 1931, and her final vows in 1934.

Following her profession, Sister Aurore embraced the teaching career. She would work through the school year, then spend many a summer at University to obtain her teaching certificates. She carried on in such a manner until the day she graduated with her Bachelor's degree in Education from the University of Alberta. Of her 45 years of religious life, Aurore spent 40 years in the field of education, and 29 of those years were devoted to the youth of Legal, Alberta. She also taught in Prince Albert and in Albertville. In 1974 her years of services were recognized by the Alberta Teacher's Association and Sister Blanchette was officially granted the honor and the benefits of a Life Membership in this association.

In 1972 the Legal parishioners expressed their appreciation to Sister Blanchette for the 25 years of service she had devoted to the education of their children. The pastor, Father Roland Bissonnette, stated: "The results of daily efforts are not always visible; we must keep in mind the mystery of supernatural grace, the effects of which will be seen only in heaven. Always ready to give of yourself despite your heavy teaching load, you never hesitated to work for the Church through its parish groups and activities, even following special courses in order to better understand and help our youth." Truly, Sister Blanchette was well involved in the activities of her christian community. She was respected and loved. Not only did she educate the minds of her students, but she was also very much concerned with their total well-being, their emotional and spiritual growth.

In Gaspé where Aurore was born, prayer was venerated and fostered within the christian families. Mrs. Blanchette, being deaf, was unable to teach the prayers to her own children. Therefore, Mr. Blanchette, rising very early in the morning would stir up a good fire then, in turn, take each youngster on his lap and teach him his christian prayers. Is it not fairly easy to understand that Sister Blanchette loved to pray? To her, prayer was a

source of strength and courage. As a true child of Gaspé, she was to reap from those tender and fruitful sessions on her father's knee, a filial devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Aurore was a delightful person with her clear and rosy complexion, brown hair and sparkling eyes, her ready smile, along with an affectionate heart. She made her first communion when she was eight years old. Upon this occasion she gave her heart to God forever. Purity and generosity were remarkable characteristics. She used to say: "I have learned to tread upon my heart's innermost feelings."

For us, living now, a transfer to Ile-a-la-Crosse mission in Saskatchewan does not appear particularly heroic. Forty years ago, however, this implied a true spirit of sacrifice because one had to adapt to isolation and to a very different way of life. For example, the menu consisted of fish three times a day. Sister Blanchette retained her joyful disposition despite the many sacrifices encountered. She knew how to spread warmth and sunshine around her and she was frequently heard singing away her happiness in the service of the Lord.

Sister Aurore had a deep love for her family. No sooner was the magic word 'mother' mentioned, that her beautiful eyes widened and became pensive. In 1953 Mrs. Blanchette passed away at the age of 83. The certitude of meeting her once again in heaven constituted her children's only solace at such a loss. In 1944 Aurore's brother Alphonse, aged 44 years, had preceded his mother to the eternal rest.

In 1955 Sister Berthe Dorais, Provincial Superior, answering a need of the Church, transferred Sister Blanchette to Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. In her new post, Sister Blanchette was once again active in education over and above her work at the Catholic Centre. Her statement: "In this corner of the world, there are still thousands of people yet to be converted" is indeed revealing. She contributed to the spreading of the Good News of the Kingdom of God through her catechetical correspondence courses and her religion sessions during the summer months. Utilizing the radio media she was capable of reaching out to 4000 catholic children who attended non-catholic schools.

In 1960, we find Sister Blanchette in Albertville, Saskatchewan, as teacher and principal where she remained for a period of three years prior to her return to Legal, Alberta. In 1968 she spent the year taking religious education courses at Laval University in Quebec. She then returned to Legal.

What kind of a person was Sister Aurore Blanchette? What did her life reveal? God had gratified her with remarkable qualities, both natural and supernatural; qualities of a woman who has reached the degree of sublimation through faith by means

of a deep interior life. Using Paul Claudel's words, Father E. Legault once said:

"To live, is this the purpose of life? Are the feet of God's children chained to this miserable world? It is not a question of living, but of dying; not of building one's cross, but of voluntarily climbing and giving one's all with a song on one's lips. Hence is found joy, hence is found liberty, hence is found grace, and hence eternal youth!"

In August 1975 Sister Blanchette, fully aware of the extent of her incurable condition, nevertheless expressed the desire of remaining active for as long as she possibly could. She continued to take part in the parish activities, while preparing her soul for the ultimate meeting and reward. In September 1975 she wrote to her Provincial Superior:

I am attending to the last preparations. The sympathy and prayers of relatives and friends are a great consolation to me. I had thought I could give a few more years, but the Lord apparently thinks I have done enough. All I have left to say is: "fiat." My years were filled with consolations and joyful giving of self. Looking back, time seems so short. Someone used to say so truthfully: "The years gone by seem so short because they are like drops of eternity entrusted to us by God." You ask me whether I experience suffering; physically, not too much, but morally my greatest sorrow is that my departure for the Father's House will sadden those who love me. I have the certainty that if there were the slightest possibility of a cure, you would do everything in your power to obtain it. My innermost soul is abandoned to God's will. Spiritually speaking, I feel as ready now as I would be later. The thought of seeing once again my dear mother and all the beloved ones who have preceded me fills my heart with a sweet joy of anticipation. I wish I could say all this without tears, but I have become prone to weeping...no wonder, since I come from Anse Pleureuse. You should visit that place one day. You know, one must tread over Calvary before attaining Resurrection."

After only two days of hospitalization at the Royal Alexandria Hospital in Edmonton, Sister Blanchette peacefully surrendered her soul to God on June 13, 1976, in her 66th year, 45 of which were devoted to religious life. Those who have known her, especially the residents of Legal where she spent so many years as a Grey Nun, will long remember her as devoted religious, forgetful of self and sensitive to the material and spiritual needs of those she considered as members of her family, either religious or parochial.

Wishing to pay their last respects to Sister Blanchette who had devoted herself for so many years to St. Emile's Parish, the residents of Legal obtained

the favor of having a special funeral in their church prior to the official funeral ceremonies to take place at the Regional Centre. Therefore, on June 15, at 2:30 p.m. a high mass was celebrated amidst a numerous congregation, many of whom were former students. Among the student body, present as a group, one could hear muffled sobs of genuine sorrow on losing such a devoted and beloved teacher.

The following day, June 16, relatives and friends filled to capacity the chapel at the Grey Nuns' Regional Centre in Edmonton for the funeral mass presided by Bishop Raymond Roy from St. Paul, and concelebrated by Father Wilfred Borden o.m.i. chaplain at the Centre, Father Roland Bissonnette, pastor of Legal and Father George-Henri Primeau, pastor of Morinville.

The Sisters' choir was a source of inspiration, diffusing its prayerful message of joy and hope, as did Bishop Roy's homily on the biblical text of the Beatitudes. (Matthew, V. 1-12)

Bishop Roy pronounced the last prayers and gave the final blessing. Sister Blanchette's remains were then taken to St. Albert where she lies in peace while her soul enjoys everlasting life in the true vision of the Beatitudes.

Sister Blanchette leaves to mourn her loss, two brothers in Alberta, Joseph in St. Paul and Philippe in Edmonton, and one brother, Edouard in Gaspé, P.Q.; four sisters, 3 in St. Paul Alberta, Mrs. Augustine Foisy, Mrs. Delima Robinson, Mrs. Emelie Henley; and Mrs. Melina Pelletier of Merritt B.C. One cousin, Sister Aurore Henley, is a Grey Nun.

To all her friends and family we express our sincere sympathy and the certainty of our prayers for the repose of our dear Sister Blanchette.

Let us frequently repeat this favorite prayer of Sister Blanchette:

"Blessed Virgin Mary, I offer you beforehand the last hour of my life, may it become the most beautiful hour of my life. Grant also, that all whom I have known and loved here on earth be present at the eternal rendez-vous. Amen."

"Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God." (Matthew, V.8)

(translated from Sister A. Brady's French text)

THE PAUL BLOUIN STORY

by Simone Blouin (nee Bergeron)

Simone Blouin (nee Bergeron) the oldest daughter of Napoleon and Eva Bergeron (nee Tessier), was born in Lafond, Alberta in our home, as were my three brothers and two sisters, as there were no hospitals then. We all helped at home and learned to take responsibilities, taking part in everything I could do outside, as doing chores and doing house work: cooking, knitting, sewing and laundry. We had fun playing games. We played



Paul and Simone Blouin, July 1959.



Paul and Simone Blouin Family.
Standing left to right: *Jean, Rachele, Bertrand, Caroles, Louis,*
Alphonse
Sitting: *Georgette Corbiere, Harvey and Darlene*
Lorraine Badré, Simone (mother), Walter and Helene (bride and
groom) Paul (father) and *Yolande.*
Blouin children's names in italics.

card games with Dad and did not cheat, because he said that those who cheated at cards, would likely cheat at other things in life.

Paul Blouin and I were married in Lafond Church, March 2, 1943.

We live south east of St. Paul. We raised eight children and have seventeen grandchildren.

We are now semi-retired and old enough to join the Senior Citizens Club.

GEORGE BODNAR

by George Bodnar

Many believe that an Easter bunny brings Easter eggs, but this was a different kind of happiness for John and Elsie Bodnar. They were blessed with a fourth son on April 28, 1926, Easter Sunday. I was born at home on the S.W. 1/4 17-56-11-W4. They called me George.

I was sent to Mameistic School. I had four miles to walk and this I did, walking barefoot in the summer and with horse and sleigh in the winter. I started school in 1933. Some of the teachers that I remember are Bill Nikolaichuk, Wm. Cherniawski, Metro Nikolaichuk, Pete Sherstanka. In school, I had the misfortune of being hit with a rock. We were playing this game called Duck on a Rock. Someone happened to rush his turn when I was finishing throwing my rock and it hit me on the head. It was a big hole.

I finished school in 1942, and, as there was no money for further education, I stayed home to help my parents. My dad was cutting brush for Mr. Foisy and I was water boy and as well helping to cut wood. We would cut up to 50 loads of wood.

We also helped the neighbours saw and split wood. Here, I had the misfortune of losing my thumb and fore finger. This happened at our neighbours, Mr. John Boyko. When my brother and I got there, they were already sawing wood, so each of us took our places and work kept on going. I was throwing the sawed wood away from the saw. We still had about ten feet of sticks to saw, when Mr. Boyko slowed down the engine and the saw twisted the stick in my hand and my glove was caught in the saw and there on the ground were my thumb and finger. In shock, I picked them up and put them in my pocket. I would have kept on working but other workers insisted that I go and see the doctor. Mr. John Oneischuk had a car. The roads were badly drifted and by the time everything was ready, it took four hours to get to St. Paul. Dr. Decosse attended to my injuries. My hand took a long time to heal. I kept my finger and thumb for a long time, hiding them in different places, until one day mother found them, and buried them in the garden. What caused my glove to be caught in the saw? The saw had three teeth missing in one spot, then there was a tooth and again two missing so when Mr. Boyko slowed the engine the place where the teeth were missing caused the blade to twist and cut the glove and also my thumb and finger. Believe it or not, but when it's cold, I always keep my hand in my pocket.

I went to cut brush for my uncle Fred Bodnar for 50¢ a day. Then I went to work for Bill Werenka of Hairy Hill for \$60.00 a month. There were few jobs to be found, so I tried to enlist in the army, navy and airforce. This required many medical tests, but as I was going over to the many doctors, I kept my hand in a pocket so that they wouldn't



Wedding picture of Gladys and Gordon Bodnar

Back row: Zenith, Judy and Tony holding Jammie, George and Anne, Gladys and Gordon, Christine.

Front row: Georgie, Mrs. Sophie Mohyluk, Anne's mother and to the far right Kenneth.

see that I'm short of a thumb and finger. After seeing the seventh doctor, he says, "Hands from the pocket!" "Well", that was it for me, as he saw right now what was missing. He just said "How the Hell did you get this?" So I didn't qualify.

I returned to the farm but didn't stay too long as I went to Prince George, B.C. to work in lumber camps. Then in 1947, I went to work on the Hart Highway in B.C. Here I was driving my foreman around as he had no license, so couldn't drive. But due to some misunderstanding with the foreman, my job did not last too long. Then in the fall of 1947, I went to work at St. Paul Flour Mills. First I was a labourer. Then I was promoted to shift work. Here I was milling flour. We were producing 800 - 1,000 lb bags of flour per shift. All this flour was shipped overseas. This job lasted till 1949, when the mill had to close down. Later it was torn down.



Tanya and Shannon, daughters of Christine and Tony Vanderhorst grandchildren of George and Anne Bodnar.



Jammie and Tricia, daughters of Tony and Judith Bodnar grandchildren of George and Anne Bodnar.

I had saved some money and putting it to better use, I bought 2 quarters of land south of Lafond for \$150.00 a quarter. But I still went to look for different jobs and this time I worked for Steve Dacyk. Here I was cat skinning, cutting brush and breaking new land around Elk Point, Derwent and St. Paul areas. This lasted only 2 years, as my boss died and everything closed down. Then I sought employment with the Department of Transport, taking me to Fort Resolution N.W.T. Here I was employed as an airport attendant and part time cook. Somehow I was injured and spent some time in the Yellowknife Hospital. In the spring, I left that job and went to Vermilion, Alta. to work for Hasenuik Construction. This was work in the oil fields. I also was foreman here.

While I was in Derwent, I met Anne Mohyluk. Anne was the daughter of Bill and Sophie Mohyluk. She was born at home Dec. 11, 1931. In 1938 she started school in Angle Lake and later she was bussed to Derwent. In 1949 she left school and helped on the farm for one year, then went to work at Elk Point Hospital, first as a maid later as a cook.

On November 8, 1952 Anne and I were married in the Holy Ghost Greek Catholic church in Derwent with Father Cherkowsky officiating. We had a reception at the Angle Lake Hall and then one week later another one at Foisy Hall, which was situated on the corner of John Bodnar's land.

After my marriage I went back to work for Hasenuik Construction around Leduc and Calmar, Alberta. Then later I was transferred to Fosterton Field in Saskatchewan. This job was getting locations ready for rigs and then later cleaning up. We lived in a trailer at Success, Saskatchewan.

All these different jobs were getting to me and I had been thinking of farming. I decided to give it a try. I had purchased a new car in 1953, but I decided to trade it for another quarter of land with my brother Mike. As this farm, the N.E. 6-56-10-W4 had a house, which needed lots of work but other buildings were there and with the other 2 quarters, I really went farming.

I started on May 5, 1954 with horses that my dad gave me. Then I bought a tractor called a Twin City, steel wheeled and a few other small machinery. We already had a few cows and pigs also. Things were going well for us. I was able to rent more land and increase my herd. I started building a pig barn when tragedy struck on March 14, 1963. Fire wiped out our house and all our belongings. We were visiting my mother in the hospital. Things really started changing. No house, so there we were back at my dad and mother's house, this time with four children.

Gordon was born January 13, 1954 at the St. Paul Hospital.

Tony born March 28, 1956.

Christine born February 29, 1960 — Leap Year!

Zenith born April 30, 1961. So here we were left with no home, no clothes and no food, but the neighbours were good such as Bill and Alex Logozar and Mike Ternovoy. Peter Logozar went collecting donations — \$600.00 as well as clothing, dishes, pots and pans as well as canned food in jars. This has been very much appreciated. Things were bad and yet the pig barn that wasn't finished had been flattened out by a wind storm. The summer of 1963 was a dry one! We threshed what we could salvage and then another misfortune overcame us, when somehow fire caught in a field and we lost a granary holding 500 bushels of wheat. Then dad approached me to buy his land which I did. Then I began to dream of more land and greater power machinery to improve my farming. So in 1966, I sold some of the land that I owned to the St. Paul Grazing Pasture and bought more land around my dad's farm. This was the N.E. 1/4 7-56-11-W4 from Steve Zawadiuk. Here we had power and a better house, as well as more buildings. This was our centennial year, because by the time everything was finalized, we moved to our new home

on January 23, 1967. As the years got better and I expanded, I also found out that I needed bigger equipment. Today I farm with a 163 H.P. Massey Ferguson tractor 2775 and 410 Massey S.P. combine. We raise hogs, cattle, sheep, chickens and grow grain to keep our farm viable.

The children were not small any more. Gordon and Tony started school in Lafond. Christine and Zeny started in Two Hills, but then two more sons were added and they are Kenny born February 5, 1966 and Georgie born March 18, 1968 and now they are all in school.

I have spent many winter months driving my boys to hockey practices and games. Gordon and Tony started with Bantams and Pee Wees. Then in later years, it was Junior B and senior games. Christine also played hockey in Vegreville. Kenny is now playing Bantams and Georgie is playing Pee Wee.

As the children grew older they went out to different jobs. Gordon after working at various jobs, has settled to be a grain buyer for the U.G.G. for the past three years and is presently living in Viking. He married Gladys Rawluk of Vegreville, Alberta, July 9, 1977 and they have one child, Carolyn.

Tony works for Diachuk Construction in Vegreville. He married Judy Rawluk of Vegreville, May 8, 1976 and they have two children, Jamie and Tricia.



Caroline Bodnar, daughter of Gordon and Gladys and grandchild of George and Anne Bodnar.

Christine is employed at the Alberta Government Telephones and is married to Tony Vanderhorst and they have two children, Tanya and Shannon.

Zeny has also tried different jobs but is settled to training as an agent for U.G.G. at Two Hills. He started at Viking.

Kenny and Georgie are still attending school in Two Hills Junior High.

In 1975 Anne and I took a trip to England. This trip was planned by Massey Ferguson. We visited the Massey Ferguson Factory. Here we saw a tractor being made from start to finish. This plant produced 400 tractors a day.

Every fall I enjoy my quota of big game. Summertime is enjoyed by some camping. My family are fishermen and living only one mile from Lac Sante, we manage to get our share of fish.

My 54 years of life have had tragedies and misfortunes, but these are over-shadowed by happy events, good luck and good fortune. Life has been good to me.

JOHN AND ELSIE BODNAR

by George Bodnar

John Bodnar was born on July 18, 1895 in a village called Orshewchi in Austria. John emigrated to Canada as a very young boy. In the old country it was the law that when the boys reached the age of 16, they had to go to the army. John looked older than 16 but decided to take his chances in coming to Canada. He had no problems and arrived in 1913.

When he came to Canada, he looked up his brother Fred and they worked together for 8 years, first on railroads, in a paper factory, and also at Taber, in the coal mine.

Elsie was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alex Diachuk. She had a twin brother. They were born on April 3rd, 1899, in Shepenitz, in the village of Bokovina, Austria. In 1905 she sailed across the ocean. She was six years old when she came to Canada. With her parents, they settled in the Shepenitz area, Alberta. Here Elsie was growing up and helping her parents to clear the brush. She also looked after her brothers and sisters. Elsie only



John and Elsie Bodnar, John holding Nick, Nancy on the left and the twins Helen and Bill.



Here Elsie and grand-niece just finishing feeding chickens. She also raised ducks and geese.

went to school for 2 months. It was believed that the girls did not need the education.

In November, 1917, John and Elsie were married at Luzan, in the Ukraine Greek Orthodox Church.

John was still working on the railroad at that time, but they rented a house that had a sod roof. This house was on the S.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ -18-56-11-4.

Here they had all kinds of problems, mostly no money and not much to eat, but they never gave up. Elsie would pick berries of all kinds. She also got to know the different weeds that were good to eat. Some of these weeds were wild garlic, pig weed, wild rhubarb and different kinds of mushrooms. She also would snare rabbits for meat.

While John was working on the railroad, he was thinking of farming. He bought S.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ -17-56-11-4 from the C.P.R. He put a dollar for a down payment and every year paid a dollar until it was paid. We do not know the price. Here they lived in a granary before their first home was built. They cut logs for the home while brushing and clearing the land. To help farming go easier, John brushed a quarter of land for Mr. Eugene Foisy for the sum of \$150.00. He also used to work on the roads with scrapers drawn by horses, and graders also drawn by horses. This is how he used to pay his taxes.

The Foisy Community Hall was built on S.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ -17-56-11-4 in 1936 with John giving lots of help.

Elsie was a very hard working woman. She raised lots of chicken, ducks and geese. She would work at home in the day and attend to the children the best she knew how. She sewed clothes and knitted socks and mitts. In the spring time, she would walk over to the neighbors and help pick stones and roots, and in the fall she would stook. She did this to help out not only for money, but she would take flour or clothes, for her pay.

John and Elsie's house was open to all people. As poor as they were, they had a cup of coffee or

tea for everyone and sleeping accommodation for anyone, as well as putting up the animals in the barn. Farming was hard, yet they rented land from Mr. Smith near Foisy, next to Bob Tomlinson's. Then to improve his living conditions, John went to work in 1950-51 in the Coleman Mines during the winter months. In the early forties John purchased their first Model T Ford.

John and Elsie raised eleven children:

Son John was born October 15, 1919. He married Jean Tymko of Brosseau, November 21, 1941. They have 2 boys, Ronnie and Steve and 3 girls, Sylvia, Vivian and Beverly. John and Jean live at Ashmont, Alberta. John does carpentry work.

Mike was born May 22, 1921. He married Rose Logozar of Brosseau on June 7, 1948. They have one son Lawrence and 4 girls, Lorraine, Judy, Joanne and Debbie. Mike and Rose live at Foisy, Alberta. Mike does welding and hobby farming.

Alex was born September 16, 1922. He married Amy Austin of Lafond on October 20, 1953. They have 4 sons; Ray, Ted, Allen and Gerry. Alex and Amy live in St. Paul, Alberta. Alex does service work at Sales and Service St. Paul, Alberta.

George, an Easter boy, born April 28, 1926. He married Anne Mohyluk from Derwent, Alberta, on November 8, 1952. They have 5 boys and one girl: Gordon, Tony, Zenith, Kenny, Georgie and Christine. George and Anne live at Brosseau, Alberta where George is farming.

Nancy was born January 28, 1928. She has 3 girls and 1 boy. She lives in Vancouver, B.C.

A set of twins arrived on August 23, 1930. Helen married Real Lavoie of Lafond, July 19, 1949. They raised 3 boys: Harvey, Tommy, and David. Helen and Real are now retired in St. Paul, Alberta, after farming for 27 years in Lafond. Bill, Helen's twin, married Henrietta Luszc of Ardmore, Alberta April 21, 1952. They raised 3 girls and 3 boys: Julian, Harvey, Randy, Darlene, Tammy, and Tracy. Bill and Henrietta live at Ardmore, Alberta. Bill does construction work and farming.

Nick was born December 22, 1932 and married Beatrice Robinson of St. Paul December 28, 1954. They raised one girl and three boys: Dolores, Eric, Albert and Glen. Nick and Beatrice live in St. Paul, Alberta. Nick is a welder, Beatrice works at the St. Theresa Hospital.

Mary born August 28, 1935 married Bill Taschuk of Brosseau, on December 7, 1951. Mary and Bill raised 1 girl and 3 boys: Pat, Larry, Jerry and Kevin. Mary and Bill live at Brosseau, Alberta where they are farming.

Dick was born July 1, 1937 and married Angee Davis of Regina, Saskatchewan, in 1958. They raised 1 girl and 3 boys. Lesley, Rick, Gregory and Jeffrey. They live in Regina, Saskatchewan.

Peter was born February 6, 1941. He married Linda in 1967 of Huston B.C. Peter and Linda have

3 boys and 1 girl. They live at Houston, B.C. Peter is in the construction business and has a machine shop.

In 1963 John sold his land to his son George. They lived on the farm, for awhile, semi-retired, but John's illness soon forced them to retire in St. Paul in April 1964.

John passed away March 14, 1966 and was buried in St. Paul Union cemetery at the age of 69.

Elsie continued to live in St. Paul. At 81 years of age, still in good health, she is still active in quilt making and knitting.

LAWRENCE AND LOUISE BODNAR (NEE JOLY)

by Louise Bodnar

Lawrence Michael Bodnar, only son of Mike Bodnar and Rose Logozar was born in Elk Point September 1, 1947. He spent his school years in St. Paul at the Glen Avon School. After leaving school in grade 10, he went to work at the St. Paul Journal for three years. From there, he went to different cities finding work at whatever was available.

Then on October 28, 1967, he married me, Louise Joly, youngest daughter of Leopold and Isabelle Joly (nee Roberge). We were married at the Roman Catholic Church in St. Paul and lived in Edmonton until moving to Foisy in 1976. I also received my 12 years of schooling in St. Paul.

In Edmonton, Lawrence worked as a photo finisher for four years and took up free lance photography as a hobby. He took numerous family and wedding pictures on week-ends. He then quit his photo finishing job and went to work for Alta West Construction in Edmonton and kept his photography as a side line. He was then transferred to N.W.T. to supervise a job construction and it was then, that he decided to move to the country.

I worked at different jobs during our ten years stay in Edmonton. I was a teller at the main Treasury Branch, a receiving clerk at Simpson Sears Warehouse, a dietary aide at the Misericordia Hospital and a receiving receptionist at Woolco.

We are blessed with two fine boys, Michael Brent, born April 10, 1968 and Darryl Paul, born March 24, 1970. Both boys were born at the Royal Alexandria Hospital in Edmonton. They are now attending school in St. Paul.

We moved to Foisy May 1, 1976 where we had bought the Foisy Store, previously owned by Claire and Hubert Foisy. That move from Edmonton was certainly an experience never to be forgotten. It was quite a challenge from the usual city living where we were limited to a few yards of fenced-in living to almost two acres of freedom. We got permission from our neighbor, Mr. W. Lepage to use the bush directly behind our fence line. It was there that Lawrence helped our boys build their tree house.



Taken 1981. Lawrence and Louise Bodnar and family; Louise, Lawrence, Michael and Darryl.

The boys would write to their friends in Edmonton and brag about their very own tree house. They were lonely for a few months after their move as they missed their friends and all the conveniences that their previous community offered.

The one and a half story building houses a store, a post office and our living quarters. The second year of operation, we had to drill a new well as the first had gone dry. We converted from propane to natural gas, so it was quite an expense that wasn't anticipated in our first years of budgeting.

The post office is a service to the community as well as an asset to the store business. Since January 1980, we have daily mail deliveries except on Saturdays and Sundays. We now have approximately sixty families taking their mail here.

In between clean-ups and serving customers, we manage to get some extra curricular activities. As a pass time, Lawrence bought an old school bus and completely camperized it to a mini mobile home. It took three years to finish it. Spring of 1979, he also took a pilot's course along with eight other men at J.B. Airways in St. Paul. That fall, he received his certificate as a qualified pilot. Then in April, 1980, he attended a two-week course at La-



Aerial view of the Lawrence and Louise Bodnar Store, at Foisy, Alta. with the bulk station to the right, the boys' tepee to the far right, the swimming pool at the rear of the store, and the 2-door garage to the left.

combe's School of Auctioneering. He came home with his Auctioneer's Diploma, his hammer and his appointment as Commissioner For Oaths.

I, on the other hand, also kept busy at taking different courses. I took a Bookkeeping Course at Lakeland College so I could keep records for our store business. Native people are our main customers and so I was interested in learning all about their culture and their language. I took Cree lessons from Mrs. Rossana Houle at the Blue Quills School. I managed to get a 79%, thus receiving an extra five credits with the Department of Education. In between Lawrence's pilot's and auctioneering's courses, I managed to take courses in cake decorating, chinese cooking, ceramics and I do macrame and some crocheting in my spare time.

Our goal was to stay in this area for five years but as the time is nearing, we find it difficult to keep to this decision. We are grateful to our wonderful friends and neighbours that we've made since our move to this community.

MIKE BODNAR, FOISY, ALTA.

by Rose Bodnar (nee Logozar)

Mike is the second oldest son of Elsie Diachuk and the late John Bodnar. He was born at home May 22, 1921. He attended Mamaestie School until he finished his grade 8. Then he went to work for a short while on the farm of his last teacher, Mr. Chernewsky, at Warwick. Mike came back home, and went to work for a neighbor farmer, Metro Sherstanka. The work was hard and hours very long. He had to be up every morning at 4: A.M. to feed and groom 12 horses, getting them ready for field work. The wages he received then were \$7.00 a month. For the winter months, Mr Sher-



Mike Bodnar was proud owner of 1928 Model A Ford.

stanka would rig up a sawing outfit and a crushing outfit, and Mike would go out doing custom work for other farmers, working on a commission basis of .25¢ per hour. He worked for another neighbor, Wm. Pundick. Then he decided to go out looking for better things and operated a Caterpillar tractor for Steve Dyck, brush cutting. When there was no more cat work to do, he went to work for Caskey Motors for a few years.

In 1947, Mike decided to go farming. After 2 years of drought, that didn't work out too well. He moved back to St. Paul, and wanting to become a welder, he got a job for 50¢ per hour, working at Steve Shipansky's Blacksmith Shop. He learned the trade and started welding at the St. Paul Foundry where he worked from 1949-1966. He had started there at 55¢ an hour and quit at \$75.00 a week.

In 1963, he purchased one quarter section of land from Mike Kruse of Foisy for \$4000.00. He farmed after working hours and on weekends.

In 1966, he got called to the Chemcell Plant in Duvernay, quit St. Paul Foundry and went to work at the plant because the wages were better — \$100.00 a week. He worked there from 1966-1974, then decided to buy his own welder and truck and



Family Picture L-R, Mike, Rose, Lawrence, Lorraine, Judy, Debbie, Bride Joanne. Taken 1974.



St. Paul Foundry Staff Taken 1959 where Mike Bodnar was welder for 17 yrs. He is standing second on left side.

go on his own. Mike is now a hobby farmer and a welder, doing custom welding.

He married me, Rosie Logozar, third youngest daughter of Peter D. and the late Kate Logozar. We have 5 children and 9 grandchildren. Lawrence is owner of Foisy Store and has 2 boys Michael and Darryl. Lorraine Sawatsky is working at the Bank of Commerce in St. Paul. They have 1 girl Kimmy and 2 boys Kelly, Kyle.

Judy Tucker works for a Construction Co. as Bookkeeper, they have 2 boys, Dean and Willard.

Joanne Malo, does Book work for Real Estate at home. They have 2 girls Tina, Tanya. They live in Calgary, Alta.

Debbie Bodnar is finishing her last year of school, will graduate in May. Engaged to Lawrence Piquette.

STEVE BODNARIUK

by Steve Bodnariuk

I, Steve Bodnariuk born in 1921 in the Two Hills district. My dad Karis died when I was about ten years old. I attended Chesterville School until I was 15 years old. My mother Raifta died in 1948. Later I bought a farm from George Moxam, N.W. 18-56-

10-W4. I lived with my grandfather Nikolaichuk for a number of years. He then moved to N.W. 12-56-11-W4 where there was a log cabin. I met Laetitia Lord, we were married April, 1951. We have seven children: Leonard, Eric, Clarence, Roderick and Allen all are working in Edmonton. Marie - Linda is working in St. Paul and Carol is still going to school in Lafond.

THE ERNEST BOIVIN STORY AT LAC CANARD

as written by Jeanne (née Boivin) Noel

In April 1916, my father and mother decided to come to St. Paul. We had had an auction sale and my mother had kept very busy for many weeks sewing clothes for us.

We had come from Quebec, then to Damase Hansas in the year 1910. I, Jeanne was 3 months old. My father took a homestead in Elnore that same year. They already had 6 children: my brother, Leopold, and my sisters, Irene now Mrs. Raoul Picard, Lorette, Mrs. Rosaire Faucher, Blanche who married Joseph Côté of Lafond now deceased.

We were all born in Elnora, Alberta. Now we were coming to St. Paul. My uncle Ernest Belouin

and family had moved back to Quebec. We all missed them, my mother especially, yet my uncle Ernest's brother, Alexi Belouin, had succeeded to attract us to St. Paul.

It was a lovely day in late April, that we left our house on the farm to take the train. I don't remember who took the family to the station, but I was all dressed up in my new clothes, hat and all. My hat was a blue hard form, with a white ribbon trimming. I went with a Mrs. Ross and another lady in their buggy. They drove a grey horse, who, when we came to a certain mud hole, kind of sat back on his breechens, but the ladies managed to get him going again. At the station I met the family. We waited outside on the large platform for the train. Mrs. Ross had given my older sister a box of play dishes, it consisted of tea kettles, which went to Leona, today Sister Leona S.V.D. The one cup and saucer sister Alexandrine chose for herself. We each had a piece, my mother saw to it that we shared.

A ride on the train was new to each one of us children. I remember being very sleepy, but afraid to sleep lest my parents forget me. In Edmonton we took a hotel room. Just imagine with seven children it was no easy job for our parents to keep us out of mischief. We wanted to see and try new things, I remember a tool that made holes in paper. My father bought some cheddar cheese for our lunch. This was new to us. I did not like the smell.

Vegreville was the end of the train ride. My dad took a cab that took us to a stopping house. The cab was a covered vehicle drawn by horses. The land lady was a white haired matron and she was kind and amiable.

My cousin, Alexi Belouin had come from Lac Canard to meet us. His vehicle was a democrat. We more than filled the two seats, some of us sat at the back, with our legs dangling down. We stopped at intervals to eat lunch and rest our legs. This was fine for us. Another new food for me was canned corn. I did not like the smell of it.

At Brosseau, we crossed the river on the ferry. We stayed on our seats, the men alone walked by the horses. There were a lot of new things for us to see everywhere. In Brosseau the stopping house was kept by a family of Lamberts. The man of the house did not seem to be too well. He couldn't stand our constant liveliness. Their baby was sick and he would tell us children that he would cut our ears if we did not keep quiet. This did not seem to frighten us. There were two girls, teenagers, one was tall and slim. She too seemed to be sick. She was lying down all the time. The other was stout and a hard worker, but she would complain about being tired.

We went through Lafond where we again stopped, this time the landlords were Braults. Today we have their daughter for a next door neighbor. A few months later, my father went back to

Brault's place to pick up our sewing machine. He had brought me and Leona with him.

By the time we got to Alexi's place, it was already close to evening. At the time his home was a round log cabin about 12 X 12 feet. In one corner he had his bed. There was a hole underneath to keep the potatoes. There was a small camp stove, this was his only cook stove. I don't remember mother complaining. She made the best of the situation. She made a hammock for baby sister, Blanche, to sleep in. Where did the rest of the family sleep, and what else was in the abode I could not say, now, as this is all I can remember.

He had already built himself a house, made of lumber, as he was planning on getting married. His house was not quite ready yet. It had an upstairs and just as soon as was possible, our family moved in.

From now on my father was a very busy man, as he worked, and had to build our own house, I think it was on Bert Lee's place, about half a mile east of the Blouin's place. In this place we were surrounded by thick timber. My father made his house with logs. I for one, was very interested in the work, and I watched how it was done. This was a two story house. Just as soon as it was finished, we moved into it, and my father shortly after, found work outside our home, working for farmers, helping out with the crops. By this time my father had acquired some six cows or so. We were on unfenced land, and the cows were free to graze where they wanted. Sometimes that fall, my mother would walk many miles to find these cows. It was cold sometimes, as we had had an early snow. I remember having gone sometimes with mother to look for the cows. The woods were thick especially where there had been a fire. There were certain places that were quite scary.

All that first winter my two older sisters boarded in St. Paul, with a family of Ouellettes, to go to school. They took their own plates and cups. Our family furnished the food. They would come home once in a while but not too often. In the fall mother had made chokecherry jelly and cranberry jelly. Eaten with cream, it was delicious. This was new for us, because on the prairie we had rose-hip syrup, gooseberries but cranberries and cherries we did not have. Another food we had at Lac Canard was fish, which we very seldom had on the prairies. Fish was easy to get especially in the spring, at spawning time we caught it by the tubful.

All that winter we boarded Joe Laflamme and his brother. They wanted to make lumber and staying with us was most convenient for them as they lived some ten miles further. In the evening they would build their sleighs, also they made a set of chairs for us. These men sure could stay up at night and talk. They kept their week's supply of groceries underneath the stairway. Of course we children

slept upstairs and naturally we needed a pail for the night use. At one time when oldest sister was taking this pail downstairs, something happened that some of the liquid spilt out over the Laflamme's groceries, a little on his bread, but bread in those days was hard enough to stand a lot without becoming soft. My mother lost no time. She peeled off the wet part and the rest of the loaf was O.K. She apologized saying water was spilt on his bread, and she had peeled it away. "Oh it's O.K." he said, it was dry. I wonder if it ever struck him what really happened. In those days, we did the best we could of a bad situation, and nobody was harmed by it.

That same winter, towards spring 1917, my mother had all her 32 teeth pulled out on the same day. This had been hard for her. Then her father died down east in Quebec. She was so sorry because she hadn't seen him for ever so long.



Jeanne Boivin and Ernest Noel
at Lac Canard about in 1930.

I am not sure if it was this same spring or if it was in the next fall, my father had bought a farm close to town on the west end of the town of St. Paul. So we made preparations to leave. He sawed the roof of the house in three pieces and carried them away to the new farm. Then we all moved in an old house until my dad finished hauling the pieces of the house and rebuilding it. That is where the main road runs today, south of Chamberland's place.

The second part of my story begins when we again came back to the country in 1928, not from Elnora, but another little town, Delbourne, which is a little further north of Elnora. Again this time, it was my cousin, Alexi Belouin who had urged my father to come to St. Paul. So we had an auction sale. We sold the extra stock and finally again in April, we were ready to go. My mother had died in the fall of 1923. One of my sisters had entered the convent in Trochu, so of our family, there were two missing. I must add my sister Lillian was born in Prince George in 1920, also another sister was born in Lousana in 1922, she died in 1923 after our mother left for the hospital and was buried in Trochu. We had Lillian with us.

My father and brother after taking us girls to a neighbor, took the freight train along with the

animals. A few days later this neighbor took us to the train in Delbourne. At our arrival in Edmonton we picked up our belongings and walked around to find a hotel. We found an old one where we slept for the night at the price of a dollar per bed. We all slept in the same bed. The next day we had enough time to walk around. I wanted to buy something at the McKenzie Seed House and my sister and I managed to find it.

At that time, 1928, traffic was no problem in the city, milk was still delivered by a one horse cart. There were very few cars.

At our arrival in St. Paul which was in the evening, we went to our aunt's and our uncle's place, Napoleon Blouin. Their son, Henri was living with them, and he worked in the Post Office. They were Alexi's parents.

We were proud of our new house which is Matilda Blanchette's home today. At the time this was one of the largest houses in that part of town. We stayed two weeks or so with them, waiting for our father to arrive, until he could come and pick us up. Being served honey was new to us. We slept upstairs where there were more rooms, and more space than we had ever had. In this house there were home-made rugs everywhere.

Going home to our farm was quite a trip, ten miles south to Lac Canard. The roads were very bad. We travelled in the big wagon as it was our only vehicle. There were mud, gumbo, and water holes to go through. Finally we got there. This was a one room log house with one room above for sleeping. This was our domain, no men up there, my brother slept downstairs with papa. The only way to climb upstairs was a ladder in the middle of the floor where there was a hole.

Since my cousin was leaving Lac Canard, in fact he had already left with his family to Delmas, Saskatchewan, while we were still in town with his parents. Arrangements had been made with him that we take the Lac Canard Post Office. Until we were ready for it, Mr. Talbant Talbourdet had it in his house. My father went to work and built a little room on the south west corner of the house, with



The Boivin children in 1916, Back row — Leopold Alexandrine, Leona, Jeanne. Middle row: Irene, Lorette, In the cart — Blanche.

shelves on the walls, a slide trap on the east wall, and a stairway along the west wall. I was chosen to be Post Mistress, so I had to make the oath that was recommended.

The mail came in once a week, and people would come in from all directions for their mail. I enjoyed it. It was interesting, and I got to know the close, and less close neighbors. They mostly came on foot.

I made a few mistakes, or errors, but I could see that other post masters did some mistakes also. Once I happened to pass our Free Press, to the Seigers. We had gone one night for a visit, and that's where I found it.

People used to walk quite a lot those days. Girls used to walk as much as seven, eight, or nine miles to a dance, and after a long week's hard work.

One time Julie Makouaski took sick, and it was serious enough. We thought it was an attack of appendicitis, so my sisters, Irene and Alexandrine, hitched our buggy and horse and took her in to St. Paul. That is where her parents had gone to plaster a house for someone, so this left the little ones at her home without a guardian, so I took over and cared for them. The roads were so muddy, it was no fun. Where the drive-in is today, on the main road, the wheels of the buggy stuck to the hubs in mud, so it was slow going. When Julia's parents saw Julia come in, they were frightened as they thought one of the little ones was dead. She was taken to the hospital and operated on and her trouble was a vein that had broken inside while hoeing the potatoes.

It happened one spring, that it was very dry. The neighbor on the east of us had started a fire, and it ran away on him. One evening it was very close to us, just beyond the creek. There was a lovely spring of water on this place and from it ran the creek going west. From where the house was, there was quite a slope down to the spring. We were surrounded by bush. This was a lovely place for cattle in winter. On this side of the creek was the chicken house, and a barn and last to the north was the house. I remember one evening we could

see the trees all aglow, still it did not make much headway. My eldest sister had stayed late to watch the fire. I was not afraid and went to bed. It didn't cross the creek so we were saved.

It was in Lac Canard that I had made my start with raising rabbits, in 1930. The Laflamme family wanted potatoes so I took some over to them and they gave me rabbits in exchange. I was successful with them and this hobby kept up till 1965.

We were good friends with the Laflammes. They were a family of girls just like us. They would visit us, and we would visit them. We had many good social evenings while we lived in Lac Canard. The boys would come, it is here that we started to date. I was the first one to get married to Ernest Noel, April 1931.

In June, Irene was married to Raoul Picard. Alexandrine was married next March to Arthur Drolet, and a little later Lorette married Rosaire Faucher.

I must not forget that when the Germans came to Lac Canard as immigrants, we were on hand to get acquainted with them. They had no other way to get to church on Sundays other than by walking, which they did. We had them come along with us in our sleigh since there was lots of place. At first they could not speak English, but we tried hard to communicate, and it wasn't long before they could talk English, and we learned German. Gerhard Thoben took a quarter just south of us. We girls would visit the Thobens in the evening. Our dog took to the trick of visiting by himself during the day. John Thoben would tie a note to his collar, and that was interesting. Later the Thobens moved to a house a little farther south, and Johan gave birth to a baby girl, Ethie for short. Johan got sick with fast tuberculosis and she died four months later. The Hovelcamp family took Ethie, but they could not keep her for very long. Her father's only alternative was to send her to some people in Saskatchewan. This trip would be an extra burden on his meagre budget, also he would be deprived of his little daughter. So with the consent of our father, we offered to take care of her. She was barely five months old when her father brought her to us. It was demanded of my father that Alexandrine would stay home, because otherwise if she went working out, I would be left with too much work. Those days we washed by hand, which was quite a chore.

So we kept Ethie and we loved her. Once I went alone with her to St. Paul to take her to doctor Lebel. He said she had eczema, and to bathe her without soap. Also she had sore eyes, and he prescribed some clear medicine to wash her eyes with. It did not take long that she was well, and thriving. We kept her for five months. Then my father decided we could keep her no longer. I was so attached to the baby, that the day her dad came for



On the homestead — Jeanne (Boivin) Noel her sister Irene with little Hettie Thoben.

her, I kept my control till after they were gone, then I went upstairs and cried it all out. The Hovelcamps took her again this time, and they kept her till her father remarried. I used to go to Hovelcamps to visit her quite often. How different the way they took care of her, from the way we did. They dressed her German style, in dark warm clothes but with no diaper. I used to hold her while I worked on the sewing machine. They sat her in a rocking chair, where she sat very quietly.

Theo Orthman was a young single man who stayed at the Thobens, when he was not out working for some farmers. At last his girlfriend came from Germany, but strange to say, she turned out marrying another man, and he married Elizabeth, a girl from Germany who had stayed quite a while at the Hovelcamps. Strange to say I was asked to be bridesmaid. To us it was so different from our ways. Why was it they had not asked my eldest sister? Bernard Hovelcamp was best man. It was a very quiet and informal wedding. At first when Elizabeth came to Canada, it took us a while to get to know her, but we got to know most of these German people. This group was quite particular. These people were all related: The Seigers, the Willers, and Seimers. Today there are very few of them left out here. Herman Seimers and some of his nephews, some young Seigers and Ewald Hovelcamp, are the only ones left.

In winter time, we used to walk to Island Lake to fish. My sister Alexandrine loved fishing. We went a few times to "the lake of the 32" we called it. There were only very small fish there, but some people fished there at the time. Money was scarce and it helped with the menu.

In summer we would go to Island Lake for bathing, sometimes with other girls. Some times we took some girls to church who otherwise could not go.

Once my sister, Blanche, went south to pick blueberries with Julia Mackowaski. It was ten miles from our place. We hitched, Billy, our single buggy horse, and we started out early. This was in the hills a little farther south than where the Drolets had lived before. The blueberries were plentiful and we did not worry about Billy till after dinner. We knew we could depend on him to stay around. Still I thought I had better see if he was not thirsty. I looked around and could not see him. I saw horse tracks coming down the hill, so I followed the tracks on and on thinking Billy had gone home. I kept on till I got home. It was not like me to turn back. I had walked the ten miles. It was somewhere around suppertime, when my dad knew what had happened. Billy had not come home. He told me to borrow Thoben's horse and buggy and go back to get the other girls. They were younger and not too handy with horses. So I started off to the hills again. I hadn't gone very far that I met the girls on

their way home. They had found Billy and had managed to hitch him to the buggy and after all, all was well.

There were many good things that happened to us while we lived in Lac Canard. It was nice to come back home to visit after I was married.

THE BOIVIN STORY

by Mrs. Irene Picard (nee Irene Boivin)

My father Ernest Boivin was a Canadian, born in Coaticook, Quebec. He died when he was very young. My father never had much of an education, so he worked hard all of his life.

My father married Emma Lafasse. They had a family of seven girls and one boy. After the first two children were born, he left his family and went to work in the State of Kansas. A few years later my mother followed.

In 1910, with three girls my parents moved to Alberta, to a farm near Elnora, Alberta, and lived there for a few years.

By 1918, there were seven children born. This time our move was to St. Paul de Metis where the older children went to school.

Times were hard but somehow we made it by the Grace of God.

In 1919, again the family made another move, this time it was to Prince George, B.C. There I started my schooling. I did not know a word of English, so the language barrier made life pretty hard for me. I managed to acquire one good friend, who happened to be called Irene, the same as I.

During our stay another sister was born. We were now eight in all. My father had a job working on the railroad with Italian and Chinese Immigrants. My father took a homestead there, but he could not afford to make improvements on it, so he called it quits.

Our next move was back to Elnora, Alberta; there he built a frame house in the country. He did not do much farming but worked for other farmers in the area. Another girl was born there, but died very young.

When I was about eight years old, my mother took sick and was put in the hospital. The Good Sisters of Charity took three girls in their Convent.

When I was nine years old, we went to school in Trochu, Alberta, which was a town school.

In 1923, my mother died so we were orphans, but after the first year in the Convent, we went home during the summer holiday. My father was working away from home most of the time also my eldest sister, the third oldest sister kept house and took care of us the best that she could.

When I was about fourteen years old, my sister and I came home to stay, my other sister stayed on and became a Nun. My sister has been in that Community now over fifty years.

Again we attended a different school for a year. Elnora was a small village, most of our neighbors were English, by this time I had a hard time speaking French, the girls at the Trochu Convent were mostly English.

In 1928, it was back to St. Paul de Metis, Alberta. At this time my father went into farming. My brother was then a big help. The girls did their share with housekeeping, gardening, milking cows, etc.



Boivin Family in 1924. L. to R. Ernest Boivin, Lorette, Alexandrine; Irene, Paul. 2nd row: Lilliane, Blanche, Missing from picture sister Leona.

We were too far from school, so I had the opportunity to live in St. Paul with an elderly couple. I helped them when I was not in school. I did not quite finish my Grade 8. I quit school and took a job housekeeping for \$10.00 a month. I worked at different places, also in Bonnyville, Alberta.

During this period I had the opportunity to see my future husband quite often. When I was home with the family, he was a regular visitor.

In 1931, I married Raoul Picard, and I lived with my mother-in-law for 23 years, 15 years with a brother-in-law. We worked very hard during all the years.

We raised a family of 4 daughters and a grandson.

Raoul and I have been together now for almost 50 years. We are grateful to live in this great Province.

HARRY BOHACHYK

by the Family

Harry was born in the Vilna area in 1916, and spent his early years, in the district farming with his parents till 1942.

He then went into the army where he served till 1946. He spent some time in coast defence in Victoria, then went overseas, where he served in England, Holland, Belgium, and Germany. During



Harry Bohachyk Family standing: Ronald and Leonard Sitting: Pauline, Harry and Lydia.

his service in Victoria, he met and married Pauline Chernowchan.

Returning after discharge from the army, Harry and his wife settled 3 miles north and east of St. Brides, Alberta, on the farm. They went into dairy cows and raised a lot of hogs, and farming a section of land.

Harry was very active in community affairs, taking part in the building of Cork hall. In Farmers Union, R.E.A., St. Brides' curling rink, worked as an assistant leader with the St. Bride's 4-H club, also served 14 years on the board of the seed cleaning plant in St. Paul.

Harry and Pauline raised 3 children, who took their education in St. Paul, and now are living in Edmonton.

Ron married Donna Lundgren of St. Paul. They now have 3 children, Sidney (5), Shelly (2), and Sheldon one week old. Ron is a bank manager with the Imperial Bank of Commerce.

Leonard married former Vickey Yaceyko of Stry, Alberta. They have 2 children, Beverly (11), and Lee-Ann (9). Leonard is working with computers for the Provincial Government.

Lydia is with the Land Titles Office, single at present.

Leonard, Ron and Lydia were very active with the St. Brides' 4-H club for several years.



In front of Harry Bohachyk's farmhouse 1946. Harry, Pauline his sister Ann, her two children and his father Peter.

BORATYNEC, ALEX AND FAMILY

by Alexandra Boratynec, Mary and Randy Proskiw

Alex Boratynec was born in 1880 in Austria. He later married Nancy Kiss, and they had two sons: Mike and Joe. In 1913, he learned that there was more to see and do in other lands, rather than the farming life in Austria. So he sailed to Canada, leaving his wife and two sons behind.

In Canada, Alex found work around Drumheller, shovelling coal into the mighty steam engine of a train. A mishap occurred, causing the amputation of his right leg in a Calgary hospital. After his release from hospital, Alex moved in with his brother Tom and tried his luck managing a store. Three or four years passed, and Alex sent for his family.

In 1920, reunited with his wife and sons, Alex moved to the Slawa area, and again started farming.

Mike, the eldest, was of school age when he came to Canada. He spent one year at Henley School, and another three years at Lake Eliza School. But farm work for his one-legged father was too rough, so Mike quit school to help on the farm.

In 1929, Mike married Katherine Yakimovich, the daughter of Mike and Nancy Yakimovich. Mike and Katherine moved in with his parents and continued working Alex's land. On October 25, 1931, their only son was born. On August 28, 1935, the first of their two daughters was born. Mike and Katherine continued living with his parents and farming the land with a team of horses. On June 18, 1943, their last child, Anne, was born. A year later, they bought their own land, a used 50-30 Massey-Harris tractor, and moved away from Mike's parents.

Steve, Mike's son, received his elementary and secondary education at the rural Lake Eliza and Capitol Schools. The convenience of school busses did not come about until the 1950's, so the students

walked, or rode a horse or a bicycle. In 1946, money was scarce, so Steve was not one of the fortunate few who were able to further their education in a neighboring town.

At the age of 17, Steve was employed by Kresge's and by the Humen Sewing Machine Company in Edmonton. Today, it is really difficult to visualize his salary of \$17 a week. Steve also worked at sawmills in British Columbia and at Whitecourt, Alberta.

After the death of his mother in 1954, Steve remained on the farm with his grandfather, his father and his younger sister Anne, until 1958. Then, he joined the staff of Macleod's in St. Paul and later in Bonnyville, until December 1961.

On July 28, 1962, Steve married Alexandra, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Arseniuk, who then resided at Flat Lake, Alberta. It was then that Steve decided to make mixed farming his career. Playing the guitar and raising horses are his other main interests.

Mary, Mike's eldest daughter, attended Lake Eliza School for three years. She was moved to Capitol School for four years until she became fed up with the school. She moved back to Lake Eliza School to complete Grade 7 and 8, and took her Grade 9 by correspondence. Mary completed Grade 10 and 11 at the New Myrnam School.

But Mary also remembers milking cows and selling cream to provide some steady cash; also, working the land with horses, threshing bundles, stooking the bundles, and helping her mother with the housework. There was bringing the cows from the pasture on horseback, and homework done by the dim light of a coal-oil lamp, which needed re-fuelling almost as often as the wood stove or the air-tight heater.

Mary left most of these troubles behind when she married John Proskiw, on November 12, 1953. John was the son of Grace and Steve Proskiw. Mary

and John moved to their own farm in 1954 and, along with the tasks of stooking bundles, cleaning house, milking cows, etc., it wasn't long till plenty of help existed. Between 1957 and 1965, they had four sons: Randy, Brian, Gary, and Larry; and two daughters: Sherlyne and Karen.

Anne remembers a different lifestyle. She remembers gardening, cooking, and hauling wood to the house. Her schooling consisted of Grades 1 to 6 at Lake Eliza School, and Grades 7 to 11 at Elk Point School. She left school and moved to Edmonton, where she worked with the government from 1961 to 1965. During this time, she met Marcel Handfield, son of Lanul and Blandine Handfield. Anne and Marcel were married in 1964.

Anne switched jobs and, while working for Chemcell Chemicals, had her first child, Kathy. About seven years later, Anne and Marcel enlarged their family with twins, Kim and Pam. Marcel longed for a son, and three years later Bryan was born.

Today, Anne and Marcel own their own printing shop, "Handie Printing", in Stony Plain, Alberta. They both agree that being "boss" is much better than being told what to do.

Mike had moved his family east of his parents' homestead. He put a lot of work into seeding and harvesting, raising cattle and pigs, aside from building a farm yard. In 1950, when his mother passed away, his father asked him to move back to the original homesite. So Mike, Katherine and the children moved back in with Alex. On October 2, 1954, Katherine passed away as a result of leukemia.

Alex was best known for his bean soup. Many people were known to visit just for a taste of it. In June 1959, at the age of 79, Alex passed on.

Mike was lost. His son was out working, Mary was married, and Anne had moved to Edmonton to work. Mike continued farming, and really appreciated it when Steve came back to work on the farm. They moved to Mike's homestead, which Steve and Alexandra farm today.

When Mike decided to retire, he didn't know where to stay. He spent 6 months in an old age home, and didn't like it. Then he spent 6 months in Edmonton with Anne's family. He finally came back to John and Mary's place, and for the first year you could only get him out of the garage long enough to eat. He liked it and he has stayed. He recently celebrated his 74th birthday.

THE GEORGE BORATYNEC FAMILY

by George Boratyne

I was born in Brody, Kleketiw, Ukraine on April 28, 1901. In search of a better life, my parents de-



George and Julia on their wedding — June 1, 1928. Violinist — Mike Demchuk — Best man, Mike Boratyne. On bride's right: Annie Demchuk, (nee Cherniawsky), Anne Fermaniuk, Bessie Lien.

cided to emigrate to Canada where my father had a brother. In 1913, when I was twelve years old, we boarded the ship Montaple for our new home. Our family included my father Tom, who died in 1950 at the age of eighty-two; my mother Anne, who died after a lengthy illness in 1917 at the age of forty-two; my brother John, who resides in the St. Paul area; my sister Nancy, who passed away in Toronto in 1978; my brother Pat, who died in 1944; my brother Harry, who resides in the Lake Eliza district; and my youngest brother William, presently living in Toronto.

We arrived at Quebec in June, 1913, and boarded a train for Innisfree. Here my father met a friend from the old country who was farming in the Innisfree area. He brought us to Myrnam to live with Uncle Joe. Here we lived in a small one-room log house which also had an attic. With my uncle's family of five and our family of eight, we were very crowded. We only stayed the summer and my father moved our family from the cramped



George and Julia with their grandchildren.

quarters to a rented house two miles from Myrnam.

During this time I obtained my first job at age twelve in this very promising land. I began baby-sitting for Pete Melnychuk for two dollars a month. I did this for a year. All it got me was a pair of shoes, a pair of pants, and a jacket.

On March first we moved across the North Saskatchewan River to our homestead at Lac Bellevue. We had to make the move at this time when the ice was still strong enough as there was no other means of crossing the river. Here we began homesteading, clearing the brush-covered land with axe and grub-hoe. We broke the land with a fourteen-inch walking plow and two oxen. My brother John guided the plow while I drove the oxen. It took us all summer to break two and a half acres. We made several trips a year to Vermilion for supplies. This trip by oxen took one week.

During my bachelor years, I had various employment experiences. In 1917, I worked as a farm hand near Vegreville, for eight dollars a month; in 1918, an eighteen hour day harvesting at Willingdon for two dollars a day; in 1920, on the railroad at Bethune near Regina for twenty-eight cents an hour; in 1922, trapping on the Chipewyan Prairie near Ft. McMurray, seasonal harvesting jobs in Saskatchewan for five dollars a day.

I was one of the organizers of the United Ukrainian Canadians who built Lac Bellevue Hall in 1924. This was the cultural centre for concerts, plays and other family gatherings. I remained active in this organization until after my marriage and the Lake Eliza Hall was built.

On June 1, 1928, I got married to the former Juliana (Kulia) Denega in St. Paul. We lived on my dad's homestead for a short while and then we bought land in the Lake Eliza district, three miles east from my father's homestead. Here we farmed and raised seven children — three sons and four daughters. I was active in local politics and school affairs serving as secretary-treasurer of the local school board for eleven years.

Hardships prevailed — drought, hail and frost. During these hard times, I was forced to look for other sources of income. During my absence my wife managed the farming operations with the children. They carried out the routine mixed farming tasks. In the meantime, I transported mail by horse-drawn vehicles from Myrnam to the local post office; operated the Elk Point ferry for three years; operated a shoe repair shop at Elk Point for a couple of years; worked on "extra gangs" on railroads for summer employment; and tried my hand at mining at East Coulee Coal mine near Drumheller.

My last employment away from the farm began in 1954, operating the Myrnam Ferry and continuing until the present bridge was built in 1970.

Our children have blessed us with seventeen grandchildren, three step grandchildren, one great



Four generations of George Boratynec family. George Boratynec holding great-grandson Joshua. Son Raymond on left grandson Gordon on right.

grandchild, and two step great grandchildren. Eddy, our eldest son, married Victoria Breault. They reside in Edmonton. Eddy has been working at the University of Alberta Hospital since 1977. Prior to this he farmed the homestead. Victoria works at the Hudson's Bay as an audit clerk. Their children are Robert, Donald and Phyllis; and grandchildren Michael and Jacqueline.

Olga married Mike Kitz from Myrnam. They reside in Edmonton where Mike is carpentering. After homemaking for several years Olga has returned to work and is presently employed by the Hudson's Bay in the clerical field. Debbie and Shelly are their children.

Raymond married Josephine Elko from Morecambe. They reside in Fort Saskatchewan where Raymond is construction foreman for Petroski Construction and Josephine teaches crafts to community organizations and inmates at the local correctional institution. Their family includes Gordon, Douglas, Doreen and Tony and grandchild Joshua.



George and Julia Boratynec on their 50th wedding anniversary, July 1978, with their children and spouses.

Irene married Edward Gadowsky from Lac Bellevue, who is presently teaching at Jasper Place Composite High School. After being a homemaker for several years, Irene completed a Certified Nursing Aid course. She is employed by the Misericordia Hospital. They reside in Edmonton and have a daughter Diane, who recently married Wayne Duplessis; and two sons Glen and Gino.

Marshall, a pharmacy graduate from the University of Alberta now resides in Sherwood Park and works at Beverly Pharmacy in Edmonton. His wife Mary, a former medical laboratory technician, has taken up homemaking full time with their young family Bryan, Dennis, and Susan.

Margaret married Eddie Zacharuk from Lac Bellevue. She is presently teaching with the Edmonton Public School Board while her husband is employed by the Research Council as a research technologist. They reside in Sherwood Park with their three sons Bradley, Darrell and Michael.

Our youngest daughter Stella, married Ronald Slywka of Elk Point. She is presently teaching for the Edmonton Public School Board while Ronald is employed by R. Angus Alberta Ltd. Robert and Kevin are their two sons.

Upon retirement, Julia and I moved to St. Paul in 1970. We still did pleasure farming during the summer months up until 1980. After all our hard toils and savings, I was able to make my long-time dream come true in 1974. I returned to my homeland in the Ukraine where I visited friends and relatives and had the opportunity to visit my birthplace. In 1976, again I holidayed in the Ukraine with my wife and daughter Olga, and her family.

My wife and I have had the pleasure to motor with our children across parts of the United States and Canada — from the west coast of Victoria to the east coast of Prince Edward Island. Very recently, January 1981, my wife Julia passed away. I try to remain active in local affairs and enjoy my twilight years.

THE HARRY BORATYNEC FAMILY

by Harry Boratynec

My dad, Tom, emigrated to Canada from Poland with his wife Anna, five sons and one daughter in 1913 and settled on a homestead in the Lake Eliza district when I was four years old. He was able to purchase a quarter of land for each of his sons under the conditions spelled out in the Homestead Act; one of these quarters was eventually to be my home quarter upon my marriage to Mary. She is one of eleven children born in Canada to Paul and Katie Ewashko who came to this country from Poland and settled in the Morecambe area. I eventually purchased my Dad's original homestead and on this half section, namely the east $\frac{1}{2}$ of 36-55-9-4, our children were born and raised. This was our home place up to 1962, except for one year when we moved south of Innisfree. In 1962, we bought and moved to some land just east of the Lake Eliza Hall where we presently live.

Our marriage in May of 1937 produced four daughters and three sons. Our oldest child, Adeline married Billy Krankowsky in 1956. They raised their three children, Leonard, Laura and Dale on a farm in the Lac Bellevue area where she still resides. Billy died in January of 1978.

Albert, who married Jeannine Robinson in 1962, attended the University of Alberta and after receiving his teaching certificate, settled in Elk Point. They live there with their four children, Murray, Michael, Melanie and Melinda.

Ivy married Bill Ference in 1959 and with their four children, Kenneth, Elaine, Brian and Darwin, presently live on a farm in the Armistice district.

Jeannette, after receiving her certified nursing aide training in Calgary, married Edward Sadownyk of Vegreville, where, with their two children, Karen and Kent, they presently reside.



Harry and Mary Boratynec's Family.

Back row: Emil, Jeannette, Ivy; Adline, Albert.
Front row: Larry, Mrs. Mary, Mr. Harry, and Shirley.

Emil and his wife, the former Donna Craig, live in Calgary. He has had a very successful employment with oil and gas contracting firms in that city where they live with their children, Ken, Dwayne, Debbie and Darren. Emil has two children, Corrine and Christopher, by a previous marriage.

Shirley received her certified nurses' aide training in Edmonton and after working in Vegreville for a few years, moved to Edmonton where she lives with her husband Allan Michalchuk. She is presently employed at the Royal Alex Hospital.

Larry, the youngest, at this time is still single and is presently enjoying the climate and life in Australia. He attended N.A.I.T. where he received his pipe fitting ticket in 1978.

Presently my wife and I are semi-retired and enjoy life on the farm looking after a few animals, chickens and the wife's usual "small" garden. Like most people in the area, we have the conveniences that electrical power, natural gas and running water provide to make life easier.

HENRI BOUCHARD AND FAMILY

by: Christine Bouchard

Henri Bouchard, born in St. Zacharie, Quebec, married Alice in 1947. They left Quebec in 1953, with their four older children, Carolle, Henri, Bérangère and Clovis. They arrived in St. Paul that same year. They came to St. Brides in 1958, with three new additions to the family: Marc, Rita, and Jean. Here they bought Emmet McGuire's land and made it into a mixed farming enterprise until 1972, when they switched to a dairy farm, during which time, the last four children, who are living at home at the present time, were added to the family, making it a family of eleven children. These last four, in order of their births are: Paul, Gilles, Christine, and Sylvie.



The Henri Bouchard Family taken in 1977.

Back row: Mark, Paul, Henri, Rita, Clovis, Christine, Gilles, and Jean.

Front row: Sylvie, Bérangère, Henri, and Alice Bouchard, and Carolle.

A few details about the Bouchard children.

Carolle: nurse, married Steve Krim; three children; live in St. Paul, Alberta.

Henri-Louis; electrician, married Marie-Rose Brousseau; three children. They live in Medicine Hat, Alberta.

Bérangère: married to Ernest Brousseau, three children. They live in Smoky Lake, Alberta.

Clovis: Mechanic, married Colleen McGonigal,, lives in Edmonton, Alberta, with their two Children.

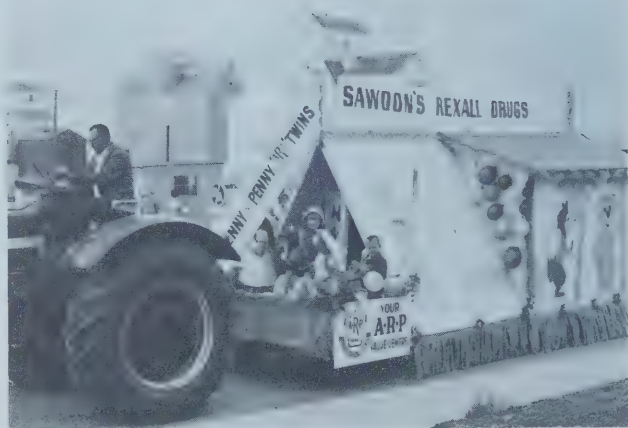
Marc: electrician; married Brenda Grauss; two children; live in Legal, Alberta.

Rita: secretary at Radio Canada; married Larry Wesley; no children yet, live in Edmonton, Alberta.

Jean: R.C.M.P. engaged to Joanne Check; he lives in Smithers, B.C.

THE BRACONNIER FAMILY (NEE SHIRLEY KROCHMAL)

by Linda Fedoruk:



Lenny and Penny Braconnier A.R.P. Twins — George Braconnier on tractor.

A most beautiful day had arrived, July 25th, 1959. Not only was it a beautiful day, but also a happy and exciting one for Shirley Krochmal. This was the day she and George Braconnier were to join their lives together in marriage. George was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Braconnier of Three Hills, Shirley the daughter of Margaret and Walter Krochmal of Lafond. George at the time was living in St. Paul and working at Horne and Pitfield. They made their home in St. Paul for a short time, and later moved to Three Hills to farm his father's land. Shirley and George were blessed with a lovely family of six children. From oldest to youngest there is Terry Ann — Oct. 6, 1961, Allen — Nov. 9, 1962, Charles — Feb. 10, 1963, Cindy — May 4, 1964, and at last, but not least the twins, Lenny and Penny, born April 12, 1966. At the time the twins were born (1966) the A.R.P. Drugstore had fictitious twins, named Lenny and Penny. They had A.R.P. colouring books in which they had these fictitious twins.



Penny, Allen, Cindy, Charles —
Front row: Lenny, TerryAnn
(The Braconnier Children).

This was where George and Shirley got the idea for naming their two little ones. When the drugstore heard that the Braconnier's named their twins after those in the coloring book, they decided to make the Braconnier twins the official A.R.P. twins, celebrities for a while. That, in itself, raised a little excitement in the family, but nothing could beat the excitement of just having twins.

After farming for some time, George sold the farm, and they bought a flower shop and moved into the town of Three Hills. Shirley was terrific in flower arranging, and really enjoyed her work while they had the shop.

There was some sadness in their family in the year 1979. George, after a lengthy illness passed away. He is greatly missed by his family and friends. There are many fond memories that linger in our mind as we think of him. The assurance, however, that he is gone to be with our Lord in heaven, is a great comfort to all. All the aches and pains are over, and he is rejoicing in Heaven with Our Lord and Savior.

THE BRAULT FAMILY **BRAULT, PIERRE (GREAT GRANDFATHER)** *by Beatrice Brault*

He arrived from St. Sebastien d'Hiberville, P.Q. in 1905 to settle in Alberta. He was a widower, raising 14 children. Three sons came with him to "the land of milk and honey". He remained here for 3 years, leaving in the winter for the East and returning every summer. He also owned land in



Pierre Brault Family: Back row: Pierre Josephine, Alcide, Liliane in the middle, Beatrice and Lorraine. Taken Dec. 25, 1978.

Quebec. The third time, he remained and never returned to the West. One son, Paul Emile, also moved back to the East to stay but the others, Francois-Xavier and Antoine settled in Alberta. Antoine married Alvine Theroux and they resided in Edmonton. Francois Xavier last visited in Quebec in 1925. Pierre passed away at the age of 84 in 1925.

BRAULT, FRANCOIS-XAVIER **(April 7, 1881 - July 19, 1960)**

Arrived with his father, Pierre, in 1905. He married Luvina Foisy in 1906 and they settled in S.E. Sec. 32, Twp. 56, Range 10, Mer. 4. They had



Francois Xavier Brault Family taken in 1969 Pierre, Gertrude, Eva, Bernadette, Laurent, Marie.

9 children, two of whom died very young. In 1942 Luvina passed away at the early age of 52. Francois-Xavier passed away in 1960.

BRAULT, PIERRE ANDRE

Pierre was born to Francois-Xavier and Luvina Brault (nee Foisy) on December 1, 1925 in Lafond, Alberta.

His working career actually started when he was very young. At the age of five, he rode on horseback to school, to bring the noon lunch to his brothers and sisters, who had forgotten it. At fifteen years of age, he was first employed by Pierre Lafortune to work on his farm. At sixteen, he and his father, Francois-Xavier spent 1½ years working at the Fraser Mills in Vancouver, B.C. Then he worked for Odilon Gagné. In the meantime, he courted Josephine Journault and on October 24, 1946, they were married. They had 4 children, Alcide, Beatrice, Lorraine and Liliane.

On January 6, 1947 Pierre and Josephine moved in with Mr. Evariste Gouin to take care of his 15



Pierre Brault de St. Sebastien d'Heberville P.Q.



Mr. and Mrs. Francois Xavier Brault in the 30's at Lafond.

month old son, Denis. (Mrs. Gouin had passed away). Pierre spent the next winter working in a sawmill in Giscombe, B.C. In the spring, when he returned, he bought one quarter of land, N.W.¼-2-57-11-4 for \$650. Pierre cultivated this farm along with Mr. Gouin's land. He got a job in St. Paul so he bought a car (a 1928 Chev) from his brother, Laurent and travelled to work. This job was with "Natural Gas" under the management of Mr. Arthur Pigeon. He was digging trenches with a shovel to lay pipes for the beginning of natural gas in St. Paul. In 1948, mom and dad sold the farm and moved to St. Paul, where they built their first house, a small 16' x 20' structure. Dad then worked at Blue Quills School, doing chores and farming the land. On April 15, 1950 he started to work at the Lavoie Hotel and was there until April 15, 1957, tending bar. In 1955, they sold the old house and built a bigger one just across the street from the first one. Dad then worked for Noel & Blanchette's Construction and then for Ernest St. Jean (St. Paul Trucking) for the next 5¼ years. In September, 1963, mom and dad moved back to Lafond to operate a farm owned by their brother-in-law, Ernest Dowding. Pierre eventually bought one quarter of land N.E.¼-25-56-11-4 from Jos Pigeau (formerly Leon Robinson's land). In June, 1979, Ernest Dowding sold his land to George Davidson. Today, with all the land they have and rent, they cultivate 10 quarters.



Francois Xavier Brault Family: Top row: Marie, Albert, 2nd row: Francois Xavier with Pierre in arms, Luvina (wife), Tracille Foisy (grandmother) Front row: Laurent, Bernadette, Eva, Gertrude, Taken in 1926-27 at farm 1 mile east, ½ mile south of Lafond.

Brault, Josephine (nee Journault) the youngest of the Journault family was born July 20, 1927 and attended school in Lafond. For the last 3 years she was left alone to ride the old buckskin, "Kid" to school. This horse took all 6 children to school. All the people in Lafond knew this old horse. In 1944, after taking sewing lessons in the evening, Jose-

phine won a one-week trip to the Olds School of Agriculture. This talent served her well, as she sewed all her own and her children's clothing, until they were grown up.

Josephine also took piano lessons from Sister St. Joseph from September, 1941 to June, 1943. The first time she played in church was for her sister Julianna's wedding, on November 9, 1943. That same year, Sister St. Joseph insisted she play for Midnight Mass, as she knew she would be leaving in the near future and needed someone to replace her. She played for three years for the parish and then moved to St. Paul. She didn't play again until she moved back to Lafond in 1968 when Aline Brault asked her to play for her wedding. She's been playing ever since, at first to help Mrs. T. Theroux and now, the opposite is true. She plays usually and Mrs. Theroux replaces when need be.

BRAULT, BEATRICE

by Beatrice Brault

Was born November 11, 1949, to Pierre and Josephine Brault (nee Journault). She attended St. Paul Elementary and Racette Schools in St. Paul and Lafond High School from Grades 9 to 12. At the age of 16, she travelled to the Maritimes for 5 weeks. Her working career commenced at the Worker's Compensation Board. During the four years she was there, she took holidays to Japan and Bermuda. She had been writing to a Japanese penpal since October, 1961 and visited her at Expo '70 in Japan.

On leaving the W.C.B., she spent six exciting months in Europe, the United Kingdom, Greece and Scandinavian countries. On her return to Can-



Beatrice Brault in 1973 with Japanese Penpal, Reiko Furuhashi. Kimono was handmade by Reiko's mother.

ada, she moved to Vancouver, B.C., working for Reed Shaw Stenhouse Ltd., an insurance broker and Charles A. Kench & Associates, a group benefits consultant. While there, she travelled to Hawaii and then moved back to Alberta in March, 1976. For the next 4½ years, she worked for R. Angus Alberta Limited, a heavy equipment supplier providing sales and service of Caterpillar equipment. She took another trip back to Germany, Switzerland and Italy in 1978 to visit friends and relatives. Some of her other excursions in the past decade have been, Palm Springs, Las Vegas, San Francisco and in early 1980, the Caribbean Island of Barbados. She is single and presently living in Edmonton.

BRAULT, LORRAINE

by Lorraine Pigeon.



Jules Pigeon Family: Lorraine, Jules, daughter Renée, son Jarod.

Was born in St. Paul, June 19, 1951 to Pierre and Josephine Brault (nee Journault). She attended Grades 1-6 in St. Paul. Her family moved to Lafond on a farm in September, 1963. She went to school there from grades 7-10 then completed grade 11 and 12 at Racette High School in St. Paul. After graduating in 1969, she went to work in Edmonton at the Worker's Compensation Board, as a clerk typist for 4 years. She then moved to Vancouver and worked for a management consulting firm as

a receptionist for 14 months. While residing in Vancouver, she took a trip to Hawaii with a friend. She returned to live in St. Paul in March, 1975 working as a receptionist at the Medical Clinic. In July, 1976 she went to work at Wimpey's Burger Bar (a fast food restaurant) and married the owner, Jules Pigeon in November, 1976. Jules Pigeon was born in St. Paul January 19, 1949 to Arthur and Corinne Pigeon (nee Tremblay). In January, 1977, Jules and Lorraine went on a Caribbean cruise. They visited 9 islands. They completed their trip by visiting San Francisco and Disneyland. They had a baby girl July 19, 1978 and called her Renée. In 1979, they travelled together to Hawaii. They sold the Burger Bar in June, 1979. Then, on November 13, 1979, they had a baby boy they named Jarod. Jules worked for the Co-op in Elk Point as Branch Manager for a while. Lorraine is presently working at the Medical Clinic part time.

BRAULT, ALCIDE, JOSEPH FRANCOIS-XAVIER

by Annette Brault nee Jean

Alcide was born to Pierre and Josephine Brault on August 13, 1947. He attended school in St. Paul from grades one to eight. At the age of six, Alcide started to play hockey. A lot of times it was just skating on the road, but whenever or wherever he could, he would. In 1958 he joined the Cubs under Cubmaster Father Henri Boisvert. In 1960 he joined the Scouts with Father Rosario Morin. The scouts spent two weeks at Lac Santé. Alcide was so lonesome and assured everyone he'd never live there. Today he is building a cabin in the same area. What a change a few years make! For grade nine and ten, he went to St. John's College in Edmonton, Alberta. He went there for serious studies but also played a lot of hockey. His parents by then had moved to Lafond, on a farm where they still live today. There, he took his grade eleven and first year of twelve. During those two years he played hockey for the St. Paul Canadians in St. Paul. Alcide never did take to the farm chores, so he would try and con his sisters to doing them for a dime! For his last year of grade 12, he went to Austin O'Brien School in Edmonton. During this time, he lived with his Aunt Eva and Ernie Dowding. In 1966, he started his first job with Century Sales & Service Ltd. There, he filled orders, then drove the delivery truck. On July 6, 1968, he married Annette Doris Jean of Lafond, Alberta. She is the daughter of Hector and Bernice (Cartier) Jean of Lafond, Alberta. Annette attended school in Lafond for 12 years. Her favorite pastime as a child was playing house with her dolls. Her father always kept a granary empty every summer for her playhouse. She also had to help out with farm chores and helped her mother in the house. There was always a lot to do,



Alcide Brault Family Alcide, Annette, Trevor, Christine.

but she still enjoyed the farm. In 1965, she got her first job as a telephone operator for A.G.T. in St. Paul, Alta. This was something she always wanted to do. She stayed with brother, Alcide and his family for three months. Then, her parents moved to their new home in St. Paul, at which time she went to live with them. They had lived in St. Paul for only one year when her father passed away. Annette then lived with her mother. On July 6, 1968 she married Alcide Brault, son of Pierre and Josephine Brault, a high school sweetheart. At that time, Annette transferred from St. Paul A.G.T. to Edmonton office, still as an operator. Six months later, she transferred to the ticket investigation department for A.G.T. She found this job very interesting and pleasant. She quit work in March of 1970. On May 24, 1970, their daughter, Christine Anne Marie Brault was born at the General Hospital in Edmonton. Alcide had been promoted to salesman and on May 1, 1971, they were transferred to Grande Prairie, Alberta with Century Sales & Service. This is where they bought their first home. There they made a lot of good friends and had good times. For pleasure, they did a lot of skidooing. On July 28, 1972, a son was born, Trevor Alcide Pierre Brault, at the Grande Prairie General Hospital.

In December, 1972, they were transferred back to Edmonton, Alberta. At that time, they bought their house in Sherwood Park, Alberta where they now reside. In 1979, having worked for Century

Sales and Service for 12 years, Alcide left to join Certified Tools & Supply Ltd. in a joint ownership. Ali (better known to his partner and customers) still enjoys being a salesman. He also plays hockey for the oldtimers league in Sherwood Park, and curls. He is an avid Edmonton Eskimo and Oiler fan, and also coaches his son Trevor's mity-mites hockey team. Now that the children are in school, Annette is working part time at Certified Tools & Supply. She also enjoys doing crafts and making jeans in her spare time.

Christine loves to dance and she has been dancing since age five. She is now taking tap and jazz dancing. She has won a gold medal in a group competition. She has also taken figure skating. In the summer, she plays soccer, swims and does water skiing. She loves to sing, so she joined the school choir.

Trevor likes to play hockey. He has been attending hockey school in the fall since he's been 5 years old. He also plays soccer in the summer-time, water skis and rides his mini bike at Grandfather's farm. In February of 1979, they went as a family to Disneyland, California and enjoyed a wonderful time. Trevor and Christine both attend Father Kenneth Kearns School in Sherwood Park, Alberta.

In the fall of 1979, land was cleared on the shores of Lac Santé where Alcide and Annette have started to build a cabin. They hope to spend many future summers there with family and friends.

BRAULT, LILIANE

by Beatrice Brault

Was born May 29, 1960 in St. Paul to Pierre and Josephine Brault (nee Journault). She loved to follow her dad wherever he went. Once when she was only four years old, and her mother away, she went to prepare lunch, for the two of them. When her dad came in, he found a cup cake at each place, a cup, a fork and spoon. When she was a little older, she went out alone, took the grease gun and proceeded to grease all the zerks on the tractor, then went to her dad and informed him that the tractor was ready for the field. Her dad couldn't scold such a willing helper. At a very early age, she showed talents in repairing, building milking benches, playing hockey, baseball and football with the boys, shooting gophers, etc. In school, she took a welding course for 2 years in which she was the only female student. She helped her father a great deal on the farm and then when in high school, she got part time work at Wimpey's Burger Bar, then owned by her sister and brother-in-law, Lorraine and Jules Pigeon. After finishing school, she got heavily involved in sports and joined the Edmonton Chimos Ladies' Hockey Club. At about the same time, she joined the company owned in part-



Liliane Brault on father's tractor doing the summer fallow.

nership by her brother, Alcide: Certified Tools and Supply Ltd. She drives the company van and makes deliveries in the City of Edmonton. In 1979, she flew to Toronto with the Chimos to play in a hockey tournament but the team lost the cup 1-0. That summer, she moved to London, Ontario to join a ladies' professional hockey team. She trained from June 20th to August 28, 1979, but plans fell through when the American teams were unable to financially support themselves. Disappointed, she returned to Alberta and took up her employment with Certified Tools. The Chimos again went to Ontario for another hockey tournament in February, 1980 and won all team and individual trophies except one. She also entered other tournaments such as the Badminton Provincials in Red Deer, slow pitch, javelin throw, shot put, broad jumping, and fastball. She has now joined a soccer team.

All the children love to come out to the farm on weekends to enjoy Mom's homemade bread, her pork and beans and tasty pea soup.

ANTON AND MARY BRODZIAK

Anton was born January 25, 1891 in Kolikaw, Poland. Anton was the only child of John and Natolka Brodziak. His mother passed away when he was 4 years old.

At the age of 17 he emigrated to Chicago, U.S.A. While there, he worked in a brewery. Then in 1913 Anton came to Canada and was employed by Fort William and Port Arthur Grain Elevator Co. In 1914, he moved to Mundare. While there he worked for Mr. Nay as a farm hand.

Mary Dolawe Patrie was born in March 21, 1897 in Poland. She arrived to Hilliard with her parents, Blacho and Pearl Patrie and four brothers in 1909.



Anton, Mary, Roman, Jennie, Helen, Mike Podlosky, Walter, Mike and Helen, missing John taken in 1945.



Mary and Anton Brodziak Golden Anniversary in 1965.

In 1914, Anton took a homestead at Vilna. On January 31, 1915 Anton and Mary were married at St. Peter and St. Paul Church in Mundare. While living in Vilna, Anton worked for the C.N.R., as well as farmed. Philip (deceased) Jeannie, John, Walter, Anne, Katie (deceased) and Helen were born on the homestead.

They moved to Mundare in 1926 where Mike and Roman were born. They farmed there for ten years.

Then in 1930 he received a letter saying his father had passed away in Poland.

In 1936, the folks bought $\frac{1}{2}$ section in St. Brides. They paid \$2,800 for S.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ -15-58-11-4 and \$2,400 for N.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ -10-58-11-4 from the Soldiers Settlement. This land was previously owned by Mc Vea and Frank O'Hara. The land was seeded in 1937 and in February 1938 the family was moved. The first tractor, a Massey 101 Junior was bought in 1941. A threshing machine was bought in 1945.

Anton and Mary retired to St. Paul in 1957. They celebrated their Golden Anniversary in 1965. Mary passed away January 6, 1971. Anton died June 20, 1972

Jennie — born January 5, 1918 married Mike Podlosky, lives in St. Paul, has one son Frank. Mike passed away October 6, 1979.

John — born February 10, 1919 married Anne Podloski, lives in St. Paul, has two sons Ronald and Kenneth.

Walter — born February 3, 1921 married Katie Shepert, lives in St. Paul, has 2 daughters and two sons. Marelene, Caroline, Dale and Glen.

Anne — born April 7, 1922 married Lloyd Cunningham, living in Edmonton, has 2 sons and 2 daughters. Berry, Neil, Donna, and May.

Helen — born June 3, 1925 married Andrew Tkachyk living in St. Paul, has 4 sons and 2 daughters. Lenord, Darelene, Dwayne, Earnest and Elaine (twins) and David.

Mike — born February 9, 1929 married Ida Schoch, has 3 sons Dwayne, Todd, and Craig, all living in St. Brides.

JOHN BRODZIAK

John was born February 10, 1919 in Vilna to Anton and Mary Brodziak, moved to St. Brides in 1938 with his parents, from Mundare.

In November of 1940 John was called up for basic training. In December 1942 he enlisted in the Canadian Army (active) in Edmonton and trained in Camrose and Calgary. He was sent to England and Assigned to the First Division Service Corps. John saw action in Italy and Africa. In 1946 he returned to Canada and was discharged.

Came home and worked for United Grain Growers in St. Paul for a year and bought N.E. ¼ 22-58-11-4 through V.L.A. and started his farming career.



Anne, Ron, John, and little Ken Brodziak in 1958.

On February 10, 1947 John and Anne were married in St. Brides by Father Cartier. Anne is the oldest daughter of Frank and Mary Podloski. More land was purchased through the years and they went into dairy cattle.

Moved to St. Paul in 1973. Then in 1974, they built Super Burger and operated it for five years. John and Anne are semi-retired.

Their first son Ronald was born January 19, 1948. He married Marieanne Chimko September 6, 1969. They have a daughter Tanya and a son Kevin, all living in Edmonton. Kenneth born January 25, 1956 married Joan Bohachuk August 6, 1979 living in Calgary.

ROMAN BRODZIAK

by the Family

Roman Brodziak is the youngest child of Anton and Mary Brodziak, born February 9, 1929 in Mundare. Moved to St. Brides with his parents at the age of nine. Continued his schooling in St. Brides. At the age of nineteen, he went to work in Vancouver for one year. Then returned farming with the folks. In 1957 the folks retired to St. Paul. Roman then went to barber school in Edmonton, and



Back row: John, Walter, Mike.
Front row: Jennie, and Mike Podlosky, Helen, Anne and Roman
Taken in 1978.

then barbered from 1957 to 1975 in St. Paul and continued to farm.

Roman played baseball for 30 years as a catcher, started with St. Brides Shamrocks and later for St. Paul Bears.

In 1967, he married Ida Schoch daughter of the late Kaspar and Katie Schoch. Lived in St. Paul till 1978, now resides on the home place at St. Brides with their sons: Dwayne, Todd and Craig.

BROSSEAU, MAURICE AND NOELLA (NÉE DESAULNIERS) AND FAMILY

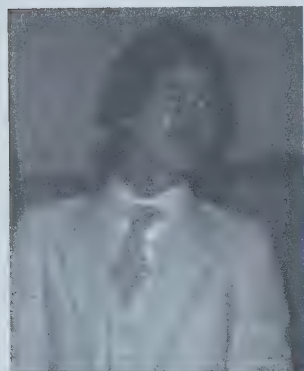
Noella, daughter of René Desaulnier and Florence Guenette, was born on December 13th, 1921. She was the fifth child of a family of five girls and three boys and was born in a house that still stands where her brother Armand lives with his wife Marg. She attended school in Lafond from 1930 to 1938. Afterwards she worked in the district at \$6.00 a month.

In 1946 Noella married Nick Hrushka who was employed by Canadian Utilities, now called Alberta Power. They bought a home and lived in Vegreville, where Nick was employed as a lineman and serviced the power lines in the Vegreville district. During that time Noella worked for Adler's and Service Meats as a clerk. On May 9th, 1950, Nick was electrocuted while working on a powerline in the Vermilion district. After this unfortunate mishap, Noella moved back to Lafond to live with her parents.

On June 10th, 1952 Noella married Maurice Brosseau in Lafond. They had the wedding dinner at her parents' home and the wedding reception was held in the Brosseau Hall. The following day they departed on a three weeks honeymoon in southern Alberta and B.C. After returning from their honeymoon, they moved in with Maurice's dad on the home place where they have lived ever



Standing: Tommy, Adele, David, Maurice Jr. Jocelyne.
Seated: Terry, Moe, Noella, Christopher, Jacob.



Roger.

since. At that time Maurice owned a Wd 6 tractor and the South half of 36-55-12-W4th. and farmed his father's land till his passing away in 1965. After that, Maurice inherited the S. $\frac{1}{2}$ of 35-55-12-Wof4th. and bought his brother Joe's share of the machinery. From then on Maurice and Noella really went into farming in earnest. Today they own seven quarters of land and operate a mixed farming operation. They raise beef cattle, have a small dairy herd, raise hogs, chickens and turkeys. Noella takes pride in her large garden and flowerbeds, Maurice and Noella had eight children;

Adele was born December 11th, 1952 and is secretary and cook. Therese was born November 15th, 1953, has two boys and is a microfilm lab technician. Roger born on October 17th, 1955 and is a welder. Jocelyn was born on January 21st, 1957 and is a cook. Maurice was born on August 21st, 1958 and is employed as a bridge repairman. David born on December 27th, 1961 graduated from the St. Paul Regional School, St. Paul. Monique born April 22nd, 1963, died September 6th, 1967. Thomas born July 29th, 1964, is presently a student in Two Hills School. Maurice and Noella have 2 lovely grandchildren Jacob Daniel and Christopher Matthew.

WASYL BUCHNIAK

by Mrs. Helen Marcotte, Burnaby, B.C.

My father, Wasyl Buchniak, was born in Lvov in the Ukraine. He came to Canada as a young man of 17 or 18. He settled in Winnipeg, Manitoba and got a job with the C.P.R.

My mother's name was Mary Krill. She was born in the Ukraine and came to Canada when she was five years old. Her parents also settled in Winnipeg; she married my father when she was 14 years old. They settled in Dauphin, Manitoba for a while. They then moved to Kamsack, Saskatchewan and later to Myrnam, Alberta. My father quit working for the C.P.R. and bought a farm, on which they lived for a while. Eventually, they bought a farm in the Lac Bellevue area. Thirteen children were born to them, but only five grew to adulthood: Elizabeth, Alex, Nick, John and Helen. Of the five, only two are now living, my brother Alex and myself.

My father used to make flutes out of cherry wood and also out of copper tubing. He also made a violin and a cymbal. He was noted for his flute and violin playing. I remember that on winter nights he would stoke up the fire in the little house (it overlooked Lac Bellevue Lake), open the door, sit on the doorstep and start playing his flute. Soon the neighbors would gather and listen to his music. These memories I will always cherish, and it always makes me homesick around Christmas time; I see my father sitting on the doorstep with either his violin or flute. He spoke seven languages.

Some time later my mother was given two white ducklings which became her prized possessions. On Nov. 3, 1934, those ducks walked across the ice to the Island on the lake and stayed over night. My mother became quite concerned about them, so my father said he would go and get them. He asked my young brother Alex to help him. They took the boat; Alex rowed while my father broke the ice. They were three quarters of the way to the island when the weather changed. It became very windy, the boat was crushed and one end of it went down. My father told Alex to sit very still on the tip of the boat, while he got on his stomach and tried to crawl to the island. The ice was too thin and he went under at 11:00 A.M. My brother was rescued the next day around 4:00 P.M., nearly frozen to death. My father's body was never recovered from the waters of Lac Bellevue.

My mother eventually re-married and she and her husband moved to Lavoy, Alberta where they ran a small cafe. They had a daughter, Victoria, now married to Edward Zaplachinski. The Zaplachinskis have six children: Richard, Janet (Mrs. Barry Evans), Sharon, Patrick, Donald and Donna. All reside in Edmonton.

My sister, Elizabeth married John Gulowaty (the name was later shortened to Gully). They

farmed in the Rannock community. They had six children: Helen (Mrs. T. Brook) of Pensacola, Florida, Paul of Vancouver, Steve and Metro of Edmonton, and Marilyn (Mrs. James Parsons) of St. Paul. There are nine grand-children. Elizabeth died in 1940, her husband in 1968. One son, William died in 1959.



Mrs. O. Marcotte and mother, Mrs. Dudziak. Taken around 1950, at Lavoy, Alberta.

My older brother Nick and his wife had 2 sons, Nick passed away in 1947.

My younger brother John married Rose Mereska from Hairy Hill, Alberta. They lived in Edmonton and raised one son, Leonard. John passed away in 1977. My brother Alex never married.

My husband, O'Neil and I have lived in Vancouver (Burnaby) for many years. We have three children: Donna is married and living in California, Debbie works here, and Douglas has just finished school. I do a great deal of craft work; I am now building a castle out of insulin bottles (2,006 of them), which I will donate to the Crippled Childrens Hospital in November.

Wishing you great success in your History Book.

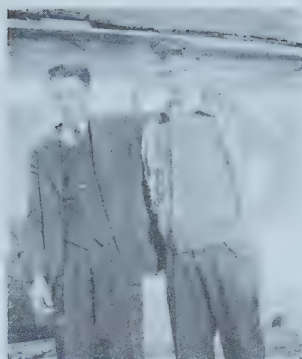
BILL BURAK

by the Family



The William Burak homestead at Lac Bellevue S.W. of 2-57-9-4th.

Bill Burak, born in 1909, was one of the four Burak children born in the Ukraine and came to Canada with his parents in 1914. In 1928, William



Pete Yuschyshyn (left) and William Burak.

filed for a homestead on quarter section S.W. 2-57-9-W4th and married Helen Pietrowsky in 1933. They separated in 1936 and Bill continued farming on his homestead until 1944. Since his brothers, by this time, had all re-established in the Therien district, William also found himself in the Therien district and stayed there until 1950. He lived in St. Paul for some 28 years, and passed away in 1978.

FRED BURAK

by the Family

I, Fred Burak will write what I can recall and was told of our history. I was born February 13, 1917, at Lake Eliza, Alberta, sixth child of Senko and Helena Burak. Our first log home had only a dirt floor and a thatched roof. The first door was made of woven hay and stayed for some time until Mr. Drolet going by, noticed this and beckoned Dad to follow him home whereupon he gave him some boards for a door. No words could be spoken as Dad could only speak Ukrainian but it was a neighbourly deed that was never forgotten as I remember Mother and Dad often talking about it. This building still stands today on William Tymofichuk's place. Later on a floor was added to the home. In 1929, we moved to the Drolet farm, this being Dad's second homestead.

I remember many freighters stopping at our place, coming from the North on their way to the mill in Myrnam. Mother always managed to fix a meal for them. Dad was well known for making cross markers for the cemetery. An axe for him was a very handy tool, using only that to make many things, including two large wooden frames complete with a design all around; these are still being kept in the family. I can always remember him starting a new day by saying his prayers before he ate. I took my schooling at Henley School, never forgetting my first days, not knowing a word of English, and a teacher who spoke only English. My brothers John and William went out working until they got their homesteads and married Annie and Helen Petrosky.

In January, 1941, my sister Julia married Richard Franchuk of Innisfree and moved there. Rich-



Fred and Margaret Burak and children: Alan and Irene.

ard died in 1973. Julia is now retired and living in Victoria. Their son Glen married Linda Kapty; they have a son Richard and live in Edmonton. I stayed home until I sold out in 1944 to Pete Tymofichuk; his son William and family live there now. In the fall of 1944, Mother, Dad, myself, Sam and family and William moved to Therien. We each had a quarter and stayed together until Sam built on his farm. William, being alone, stayed with me until he bought a home in St. Paul and retired there.

He died October 1, 1978 after many years of ill health. In the spring of 1946, we lost our home and belongings. We were all together yet. We built a small temporary house which I lived in for 19 years until I had a new one built. Mother and Dad had their own house in the same yard. In 1949, I married Margaret Braconnier of Therien. We have two children, Alan, born October 1, 1955 was married to Nancy Lute; they have a daughter Charlene. Irene, born January 16, 1958, married Richard Kelley. They have two daughters Patricia and Carmen and live in St. Paul. In 1951, the family gathered together on the Maksymiuk place in Therien to celebrate Mother and Dad's 54th wedding anniversary. On May 18, 1957 Dad passed away. In September, 1969, we gathered again to honour Mother's 90th

birthday. She died on October 25th, 1973. In 1978, due to ill health, I had a sale. We are still staying on our farm and rent our land out.

HELENA AND SENKO BURAK, SR.

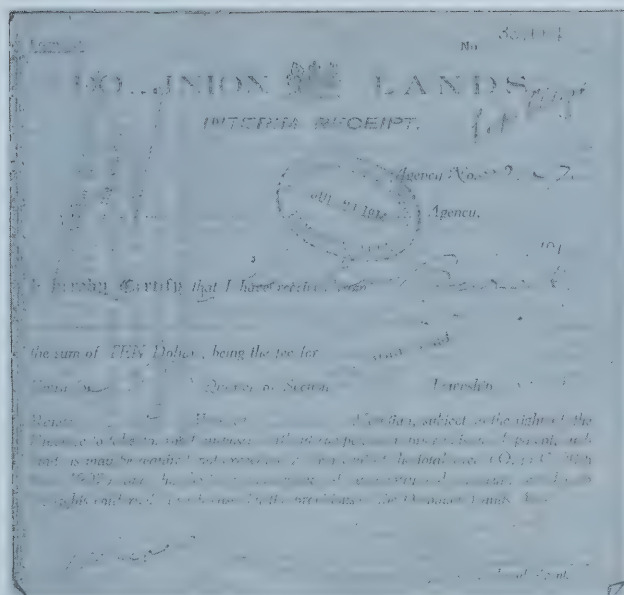
by Russell Paziuk

According to present day records, the Lac Bellevue, Lake Eliza areas had begun being settled by about 1910, therefore, we could consider the Burak family as one of our earlier pioneers.

Senko Burak was born in 1874 in Louov, Ukraine. Sam's wife, Helena was born in 1880 in the same village. It was in 1895 that Senko Burak, Sr. married Helena Hawryliw and for the next 20 years, lived in Louov, while raising a family of 4. Because of knowledge of a vast undeveloped land that could be bought for \$10.00 for 160 acres, the three acres they owned in the Ukraine became increasingly crowded for a family of six people. 1914 saw the Burak's arrival at Innisfree, Alberta. Like many others before them, the Burak's journey was by steamship to Quebec Port, then by rail to Innisfree. The Obal family home in Innisfree would become the Burak's home for the 1914 summer.



Senko and Helena Burak June 1951 on their 54th Anniversary.



Dominion Lands Interim Receipt.

Being friends with the Burak's from the past, the Obal's informed the Burak's of this availability of land in Canada.

To understand why the Burak's settled at Lac Bellevue, one would have to realize that most communities, outside of this wooded undeveloped wilderness north of the North Saskatchewan, were pretty much settled and that homesteads were being obtained in the Bellevue districts at \$10.00 a quarter. This is why Senko Burak claimed a homestead where he did.

With the help of an earlier homesteader in the Lake Eliza area; (Tony Krankowsky), a homestead was located that showed potential for having plenty of water and plenty of logs and timber that would be used to establish a residence. The Senko Burak dream of gaining some land became a reality when on July 21st, 1914, he filed for a homestead on S.E. 35-55-9-W4th.

After filing for this land, Senko immediately brought his wife and four children to the Lac Bellevue area, and because there were no buildings on this property he had purchased, the Skulsky family shared their accommodation to 1915 when a small house was built on the Burak homestead.

We are told that the only possessions the family brought with them were their clothing and an axe. Sam. Jr. recalls the first house that was built on the homestead was built using no horses, no mechanical tools except that axe. Logs used were skidden and rolled to the site by the men. Sam tells us that that was why the earliest settlers yardsites were located as near as possible to the source of material and not necessarily where the yardsite could best be located.

Sam, Jr. recalls that those very first years were such that the first objective of any family would be

its existence. Sam, Jr. recalls his working for farmers around Myrnam and once a week he would bring home a sack of wheat or whatever other produce he could exchange for his work. With the father gone for the week, the boys would snare rabbits or grouse for their daily rations. Dairy products were supplied by the one cow they were able to purchase earlier. Sam tells us that the only road useable to travel to St. Paul would lead one going west along the North Saskatchewan river to Duvernay, then north and east to St. Paul. By about 1918, it was possible to travel north from Lac Bellevue to St. Paul as more settlers appeared and a road (trail) was established.

Sam remembers a fire of uncontrollable size that devastated the community in 1919. We are told that for at least a week, the air was so full of smoke, that it became difficult to breathe. The Burak's remember moving to a 2 acre cultivated field to spend the evening so as not to get burnt up in the oncoming fires. He recalls the fire so great that it jumped the North Saskatchewan River and got started on the opposite side.

A hail storm on the 28th of July, 1935 destroyed whatever crops that were being grown. It is said that the hail storm was so severe that it greatly damaged the stucco on the Lac Bellevue Hall. Around Armistice, the hail storm was so severe that the trees eventually died and the area looked as though a fire had gone through it.

Senko and Helena Burak had seven children. Four were brought with them from their motherland.

Anne (Maksymiuk) born in 1898

John born in 1902

Bill born in 1909



Left to right: Senko Burak, Helena Burak, Mary Poloway, William Poloway close neighbours and friends at Lac Bellevue.



The Buraks gathered together for Senko and Helena's 54th wedding Anniversary, June 1951.

Sam born in 1912

While in Canada, they had three more children:

Mary born in 1914

Fred born in 1917

Julia (Deeb Fronchuk) born in 1922

Senko and Helena moved from the Lac Bellevue homestead to Therien, Alberta where they retired in 1944. Mr. Senko Burak passed away in 1957 at the age of 83. Mrs. Helena Burak moved to St. Paul and passed away in 1973 at the age of 94.

JOHN AND ANNIE BURAK

by Steve Burak

John came to Canada in 1914 with his parents Senko and Helena Burak and brothers and sister. He was only a young lad of 12, but he did recall the trip over. It took about 7 weeks by ship, and sometime during the crossing his brother William, then 5, was very sick resulting in the family being quarantined on an Island for about 2 weeks. Then, when they landed in Canada, John was told he had an infection therefore, was kept back alone, while the family moved on to Alberta. It seems it did not prove as bad as they thought and John was able to join the family, nevertheless travelling all the way from the East to Innisfree, and after inquiring in that town walked North to where his family was. What an experience for one so young, in a strange land, and knowing no English. John worked out until the spring of 1923 when he acquired a homestead 7 miles south of St. Paul. While visiting his

sister Annie and brother-in-law in St. Paul, he met a young girl, Annie Petrosky, who worked as a housekeeper at his sister's place. After some courting, he married her on January 30th, 1926. They settled on his newly acquired homestead and began the back breaking task of clearing the land and building a home. Times were difficult and resources were scarce. The logs from his land clearing were used to build the essential farm buildings. Annie was his inspiration. She toiled along side him besides having to do her housework. John worked, building roads with horses and fresnoes to help make ends meet. In the winter, there was an abundance of muskrats which he trapped and sold pelts. Many times he would travel seventy miles one way to Mannville, with horses and sleigh, to grind wheat at the nearest flour mill. The journey would take up to four or five days. In the 40's he was referred to as the man with the grey team. On many occasions, he drove his team up to 30 miles when roads were drifted in and almost impassible, to chauffeur his brother-in-law, Mike Maksymiuk, the Auctioneer. John and Annie purchased 3 quarters of land at Therien, Alberta, in the summer of 1946, and moved on to it in the spring of 1947. Moving all their machinery and belongings with horses and wagons, and walking their stock all the way from the south to Therien some 30 miles, one cow had the misfortune of being struck by a car resulting in a broken leg.

John and Annie were blessed with seven children: Mike, John, Peter, Steve, Stella, Harry and Denis (deceased).

Mike was born November 4th, 1926 and moved with the family to Therien in 1947. He left the family farm in 1951, going to Edmonton where he worked for Brown & Root on construction, after a short time he went to work for Swift Canadian where he has worked ever since. On June 7th, 1952, he married Jean Sematiuk of Waskatenau, Alberta. They have a family of 7: Gordon, Donald, Kenneth, Morris, Sandra and Doreen.

John (jr.) was born June 4th, 1928 and remained on the south homestead until 1958, when he went to Edmonton and worked briefly at Edmonton Creosote, then to Swift Canadian. He married Lydia Hennig of Stony Plain. John died January 4th, 1972.

Peter, born July 19th, 1929 moved with the family to Therien, and except for 4 months working at a sawmill in Vanderhoof, B.C., farmed and is still today. He married Joanne Smith of Maloy, Alberta on February 4th, 1961. They have 5 girls: Debbie, Beverly, Carol, Helen and Sharon.

Steve was born March 12th, 1932 and moved with the family to Therien. He attended Junior High in Mallaig and finished High School in Ashmont, Alberta. He moved to Edmonton in 1952, working briefly at Alberta Hotel, Norwood Foundry and Sinclair Stove & Heating. From January, 1953 to June, 1956, worked at Canadian Chemical. In July, 1956, he went to work at Imperial Oil Refinery in Edmonton and is still employed there. On February 7th, 1959, Steve married Elizabeth Antoniuk of Rich Valley, Alberta. They have 3 children: Donna, Shelley and Stephen.

Stella was born May 10th, 1935, and after moving with the family to Therien and attending school



Left to right: Mrs. Senko (Helena) Burak and Granson Peter Burak. Mrs. Jerome (Marie) Laboucanne, Mrs. John (Annie) Burak and son Steve.

there, went to work at the Elk Point Hospital. She then moved to Edmonton in 1956, and worked at Canadian Linen, and Swift Canadian. She married John Zacharuk of Lac Bellevue, Alberta on June 14th, 1958. They live in Edmonton and have a family of 5: Darlene, Marilyn, Wayne, Gordon and Brenda.

Harry was born February 15th, 1937 and also moved with the family to Therien. He farmed until he moved to Edmonton in 1969, worked at Burns packing plant, was in real estate for some time and is now working at Fibreglass Canada. He married Priscilla Ambler of Therien, Alberta on July 8th, 1972. They have 2 boys: Dale and Darrell.

Denis was born August 16th, 1951 and died January 6th, 1952. He was born and lived his short life at Therien.

Form 41. 5000-9-25

John Deere Plow Company of Calgary
Limited

No.

Calgary, Feb 23 1926

Received from John Durak
the sum of Fifty five
a/c note # for \$120.00 due

xx Dollars

John Deere Plow Company of Calgary
Limited

By

[Signature]

John Deere Plow Company of Calgary Limited.



Left to right: Annie Burak with son Mike, her sister Helen and husband John Burak.

John and Annie lived on their farm at Therien until they passed on, John on June 1st, 1959 and Annie on October 30th, 1960. They were both laid to rest in St. Michael's Cemetery, Lac Bellevue, Alberta.

Peter Burak and family now live on the Therien farm.



John Burak with his grey team.



Left to right: John Burak, son Peter Burak, and John's brother-in-law, Dan Petrosky.

NELLIE AND SAM JR. BURAK

by Russel Paziuk

Sam Burak Jr. was born in Louov, Ukraine in 1912 and came to Canada with his parents as a two year old. He grew up on the Lac Bellevue homestead and attended Henley School for a short time after it was built.

Nellie Slivensky was born at Fort Kent in 1917 and Sam Jr. and Nellie were married in 1940 and settled on a quarter section Sam purchased from William Percy Arden in 1937. In 1944, Sam and Nellie and family moved to Therien, after selling their Percy Arden farm to Mr. A. Bagan. Their stay in the Therien area extended to 1975 when they retired and moved to St. Paul.

Nellie and Sam had four boys:

John, born in 1941, married Joanne Denwayier and presently live on a farm in Therien.

Robert born in 1943, married Irene Gervais and live in Saskatoon.



The Sam Burak (Jr.) Family — From Left to right Fred, Robert, Darwin and John, March 1969.



Sam and Nellie with children John and Robert (First truck) 1945

Freddy born in 1944 married Betty Langdone and live in Edmonton.

Darwin born in 1949 married Jeanie Shepanski and are presently farming the Sam Burak farm in Therien.

As of this writing, Sam and Nellie are happily retired in the Town of St. Paul.

THE CAMPBELL FAMILY

by Sr. Bernadette

Peter and Margaret Campbell and their seven children left Ireland June 4th, 1927, in the hope, like so many immigrants to seek better living conditions for themselves and their children. The promises of a farm with house, barn and livestock was illuring indeed.

It was a shock to them and to many of their neighbors that tents were to be their homes for some weeks. "the Camp" as it was known was at Joe Bell's place.

Owing to the illness of Cecilia, the baby, the Campbells were given the place which later became Laverty's.

There were some lonely days for Maggie and the children, as Peter was away working on the railway, as many of the immigrants did in those days. Saturday evenings were a delight to the family when they would hear Peter coming across the field whistling. But Monday mornings were sad since he had to return on Sunday night to his job.

The MacDonalds were living in the house destined for us, so when they moved we were able to move into the house which was to be our home.

The next year was spent in building barns, fences and getting into the work on the farm.

Dad dug wells at this time too.

The church and school were built with voluntary labor. It was a labor of love for the men and then the wood cutting days also. What stories were told in the evenings! One comes to mind as told to me by Charlie Edwards. It was when they were putting the finishing to the inside of the church and Father McPhee was taking the Blessed Sacrament to the rectory while the men worked. Charlie asked George Dolan what Father was doing that for, since Charlie wasn't a catholic, and George replied, "There isn't enough room for the two of you."

The first concert "The Colleen Bawn" was a forerunner of many enjoyable evenings from local talent.

The first confirmation was in 1928 of which Bernadette was a class member. It was shortly after this that we heard a terrible cry coming from Maguires and when Peter ran up he found that Kevin had an accident with the hay mower. His legs had been cut severely. Peter went into St. Paul with Mr. Maguire, but all attempts to save Kevin's life failed. St. Brides had its first death.

In 1932 death struck the Campbell Family, when God called Joe home. It was a hard blow to the family since Joe was the oldest son.

In 1934 Josie married John Kirkpatrick.

In 1936 Bernadette followed her call to religious life.

Due to crop failure over the years the Campbells left St. Brides to live in Edmonton. They still have ties with St. Brides since Josie still lives there.

ANNA AND ANTON CENCORA

by Russell Paziuk



Anna and Anton Cencora —
Picture taken in about 1937.

Leaving his parents and family behind in his native homeland, ANTON CENCORA migrated to Canada as a 16 year old, and after his trip by steamship to Eastern Canada, and by train, river, horses and walking, ended up in the St. Paul District assumingly around the year 1920. During his early years of his life in the St. Paul District, he had been actively involved as a labourer, shoemaker, farmer, railroad man and whatever other jobs that presented themselves at that time.



L-R — Alex Marazuk, Rosie Marazuk, Peter Michalchuk, Anna Cencora, Nick Michalchuk, picture taken in late 60's on Peter Michalchuk's farm — Occasion, Peter's birthday.



Paul Cencora at age of 2.

Since the motherland had limited growth potential, and much advertising of Canada, and particularly Western Canada, as an undeveloped country with land that could be bought cheap, ANNA's father, ONUFREY MICHALCHUK, in 1900, ended up in Northern Alberta at Mundare. In 1903, he saved up enough money to bring his wife KATERYNA and one daughter (ROSIE) to meet him. As years went by, they had six more children; four boys and two girls; one named ANNA, who was born in 1905.

ANNA and ANTON CENCORA were married in St. Paul in 1922 and continued to live in town where Anton had already earlier been engaged in the shoe repair business as a single man. In 1923, they had their first son Paul, several years later they had a daughter Mary, who passed away as a infant, and in 1929 their last son Peter was born.

In 1929 they filed for a homestead at Lac Bellevue (S.E. 19-56-9-W4th). During that year, with the help of friends and neighbours, ANNA and ANTON built their home and in 1930, the couple and their two sons, moved to this homestead and there began their farming. By 1933, the Cencora's had cleared and broken 34 acres of land.

The family lived on this homestead until 1933, when they moved back to St. Paul where again ANTON continued his shoe repair business. Their brief stay on the farm was because of the hardship brought about by the depression and Anton's ill health. ANNA cites several examples where the family had paid \$1.50 a bushel for wheat used to

plant their first crop and that when the crop was harvested, the value of a bushel of wheat had dropped to \$.16. She remembers selling seven head of cattle for \$57.00 for which they paid a substantial sum more when they began their farming operation just two years earlier. With the losses, these settlers encountered and ANTON's ever failing health, the monstrous task of opening up more land to make theirs a more viable operation, became impossible. These and other factors necessitated ANTON to continue the shoe shop business after only two years on the land. Anna and her two sons stayed on the land one extra year, hoping that the economic conditions would improve, but as history is known now, they did not improve, so the family sold their stock and farm produce at losses, rented their land and moved back to St. Paul. Steve Zuk rented the land until he purchased it years later.

One must admire the courage and determination of those pioneer women who performed jobs, equal to their husband's and in many cases, this was done out of necessity. We verify this by Anna telling us of the logs she hauled to St. Paul in 1933 to build their house (She still lives in this comfortable little house today), while her husband was operating his shop to support the family. She tells us that later she personally brushed an additional 15 acres on their homestead.

Because of Anton's ever failing health, the family moved to Mission, B.C. for one year, then to Vernon for one more year. Each winter Anton would return to St. Paul to continue in his shoe shop business.

With the reality that the B.C. climate was not improving Anton's health, they returned permanently to St. Paul and in about 1953, purchased a building (located just east of present site of OK Radio, still used) and Anton continued his shoe repair business. Anton operated his shoe business out of this building until 1962, when health forced him to retire permanently and in 1964 Anton passed away.

ANNA CENCORA continued working as a janitor for the county of St. Paul until 1970 after which time she retired.

As of this writing, ANNA CENCORA is happily retired in St. Paul, their son Paul lives in Edmonton and son Peter lives in Lloydminster.

PEARL AND PETER CENCORA

by Russel Paziuk

Born and married in the Ukraine, Peter and Pearl (Tuchknowksi) came to Canada in about 1925/26. They settled on a quarter section S.W. 22-56-9-W4th and lived there to about 1953. They had no children. Peter passed away in 1954 and Pearl passed away in 1976.



L. to R. Peter Cencora, John Tuchkowsky, Pearl Cencora.
Picture taken on Lac Bellevue Homestead in about 1940.
Peter Cencora's first truck.

DAVID AND LEOPOLDINE CHARRON (BERNIER)

by Jeanne A. Lepine

There are pioneers who are worthy of mention in a Lafond History Book.

Two such pioneers are David and Leopoldine Charron who homesteaded the $\frac{1}{4}$ section on which Robert Lafrance lives today. Although they did not stay in Lafond very long, they were active community members. As a matter of fact, David served as the first head church trustee for the St. Bernard Parish of Lafond. This means that David and Leopoldine were Lafond residents in 1926.

THE JOHN CHERNIAWSKY STORY

by daughter Annie Demchuk

My parents came to Canada from the Ukraine. Mom got here in 1907 and Dad in 1908. Mom got a job in a Vegreville hotel and worked there for almost four years. Dad worked in Mundare for his cousins, Mike and Nick Cherniawsky, for almost four years, too. After Mom and Dad's marriage they moved to Slawa, Alberta where dad's cousin, John Marcinowski, lived. They bought some land, tried to farm but the soil was very poor and sandy, so they decided to look for land on the north side of the North Saskatchewan River. The next place dad got was just across from where Frank Yakimowich now lives. Later uncle Tony came from the old country and married Rosie Krankowsky. They lived with mom and dad but there wasn't enough land to support two families so dad went looking for more. He spoke of needing more land to Mr. Cardinal, an Indian neighbor. Mr. Cardinal told dad that his land was for sale but not before he finds a place for his wife, three sons and himself to live. Before dad could get title on this land Mr. Cardinal asked him to build them a shack, supply them with

flour, salt, sugar and tea for a year. That's what dad agreed to do and a year later he got his title and the Cardinal's moved away. Then dad had three quarters of land which he divided with Uncle Tony. Now they each had a quarter and a half on which to make their living. Dad went out to work in B.C. while mom raised pigs and turkeys. They bought oxen to do some breaking, then a cow and a team of horses and later they bought some sheep. My parents had to work very hard to make a living and they both did. When dad could afford it, he bought a threshing machine and went out threshing for others. He also sawed wood and ground grain into chop for his neighbors.



The Cherniawski and Demchuk families at the 25th Anniversary of Mike and Anne Demchuk, 1959.

My parents were both very kind hearted people and helped others any way they could. Times were so different, people were poor but they helped one another, now with big machinery no one has the time. Neighbors used to get together and build. Quite a few farmers got together, cut logs in the winter and next spring they got together again peeled the logs and built Lake Eliza Hall. That was a big event for all, young and old. People used to mix more than they do now.

My parents left their families in the old country. Mother left her father, stepmother and two half-brothers, Bill and Pross (Pete). Moms' name was Palahna (Pearl) Witwicky. Dad left his parents and one sister. His three brothers followed his foot steps and came to Canada, too. Pete and Joe have both passed away but his brother Tony (Anton) lives in Calgary.

Mom and dad had a family of four. Their first baby, a boy, lived only a few minutes. They named him Joseph. Then there were three girls, Annie,



Pearl Cherniawsky, mother,
Regina, daughter, John
Cherniawsky, dad,

Helen and Regina. Annie (that's me) married Mike Demchuk and we have three children. Helen married Mike Paziuk, and now live in Cut Knife, Saskatchewan, and have a family of six. Regina died at the age of 19 on April 5, 1949. Mom passed away, after a long illness, on Oct. 15, 1957 and dad very suddenly on Nov. 4, 1959.

ANTON CHERNIAWSKY

by Johnny Cherniawsky



Anton (Tony) and Rose (née Krankowski) Cherniawskys wedding
January 1919.

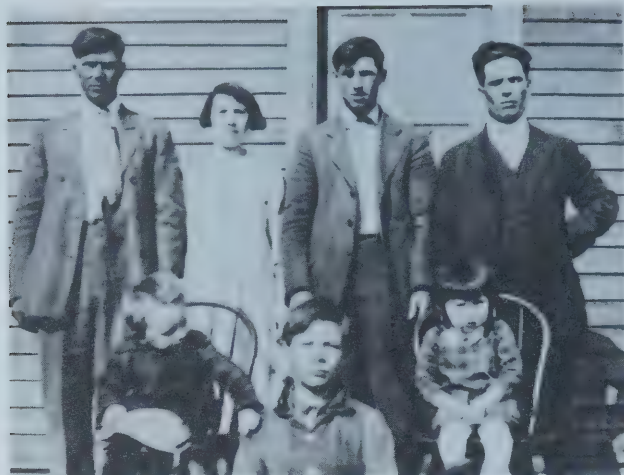
Anton Cherniawsky came to Canada in 1913. He worked for the C.P.R. Railroad at Revelstoke, B.C.

In 1916, he started farming in the Lake Eliza district S.E.-20-56-8-W4.

In 1916, he married Rosie Krankowski, daughter of Anton and Anna (nee Gawdunyk) Krankowski. Rose was born in 1904 at Woloczkwce, Sniatyn, Poland.

Horses were the main source of transportation and power to work the fields. The main source of income was milking cows and selling the cream, feeding pigs and growing grain.

Anton served on the School Board and also organized the Lake Eliza community hall with Joe Yakimowich and John Zalaski in 1926 and 1927.



Taken at the home of White Brothers 1928.
Back row: L-R. Peter Cherniawsky, Rosie Cherniawsky, Tony
Cherniawsky, 4th person unknown.
Front row: L-R. Willie Cherniawsky, John Krankowski, Anne
Cherniawsky.

They left the farm in 1957, moved to Lethbridge and in 1967, they moved to Calgary where they now reside.

Out of their union, six children were born:

The oldest child is Johnny. He is single and makes his home in Calgary.

Bill married Anne Leon. They make their home in Calgary.

Anne married Stan Edwards. They have a family of four; Louise, twins Barbara and Beverly and Ron. Louise married Ed Hudak and they have one son Nathan John and live in Bowden, Alberta. Barbara married Ron Kjula and have one child, Kimberly. They make their home in Calgary. Beverly is single and she makes her home in Calgary.

Ron married Kathy Kabel. They have one child, Angela Marie and reside in Edmonton.

Walter married Rose Matari. They have four children; Brenda Lee, Barry, Blair and Troy. They live in Calgary.



Family gathering in the 1950's.
Front row: Ludwig Cherniawsky, Mary Vibert, Walter Cherniawsky,
Anne Edwards, Willie Cherniawsky.

Mary married Lloyd Vibert. They have two children; Garry and Kevin. Garry is single, Kevin married Barbara Stahlberg. They make their home in California.

Lou married Margaret Haakenson and they have two boys; Darrel and Jeffrey. They make Calgary their home.

THE RICHARD (DICK) CHESTER AND FAMILY HISTORY

submitted by Therese Chester

Dick is the son of John Chester and Amy Billington, born at home September 30, 1914. He was one of the eleven children, nine sisters and one brother. Born with a bad hip, Dick has walked with a limp all his life. This he never let handicap him. There was no chore too big for Dick to handle.

As a little boy he was quite a rascal. He recalls when he would sit on the side of the hill and call his favourite team Frank and Jack. "Come Frank" "Come John" O.K. "Frank if you don't want to come, you can go to hell in a wheelbarrow." Or the time he slid down the rain board and got a sliver you know where. Dick always wore a real tight belt, one day he got too close to the heater and his pants caught on fire. His mother smacked his behind hard in order to put the fire out, due to the tight belt she couldn't get his pants off. He had a bad habit of hiding, no matter how much they called, he wouldn't answer. To solve the problem, they put a bell on him.



Dick and Therese Chester with their family on their 40th Anniversary. Gloria McPherson, Glenn Chester, Florence and Gene Chester, Dick, Therese, and Joyce Chester. Karen McPherson. Front row: Tessa Chester, Gal McPherson, Troy McPherson.

His first day of school was something else. He sat behind Jeanette LaBreque and tugged at her long braids. He creaked his desk, all in all, the teacher got so frustrated that he sent Dick home. It was two and one half miles to school so Dick rode his little buckskin mare named Peggy. His sisters were envious as they had to walk. The Chesterville School is the only one Dick ever attended. If you were lucky, you would reach grade eight



Richard (Dick) and Therese Chester on their 25th Anniversary Jan. 20, 1958.

and that was about it. In the spring of the year Dick, Mary, Rose and a couple of hired hands would put the crop in, pick stones and do whatever else had to be done. Harvesting was another busy time of the year. All this was done with horses. At threshing time, he was the tractor man and his father was separator man. Once in a while someone would pitch the bundles in too fast and plug the machine. This usually happened when Dick was having a little snooze along side the tractor. His dad and the rest of the crew would do a lot of yelling before they got him aroused enough to shut off the tractor. Those were the days! Work began at 6 a.m. and went on till dark. Lunch was brought out to the field morning and afternoon. A big dinner and supper was had at the house. This was a real busy time for the housewife. The men rolled out their bedding and slept all over the floor. Some sneaked off to the hay loft, the hay made a fairly comfortable bed. There was always excitement at threshing time. Some teamster had a runaway team, another perhaps loaded too heavy on one side and upset his load. It was always something to talk about, at meal times, which horse could pull the heaviest load and which was the wildest.

In the spring of 1930, Mr. and Mrs. Alphonse Simon and family moved to Chesterville. They had a little boy George-Amié, and four girls: Irene, Albina, Therese and Eugenie, Mrs. Simon's daughters from her first marriage to Eugene Ouellet.

Dick soon made himself acquainted and a romance soon blossomed between Dick and Therese. They were married at Lafond by Father Boucher on June 26, 1933.

Therese, that's me. I was born in Beauvallon, Alberta on May 14, 1917. My parents were Eugene



5 Generations 2nd time around. Gene Chester, his mother, Therese, his son Glenn and little grandson Benjamin. The great-great grandmother is Marie Louise Simon.

Ouellet and Marie-Louise Lapierre. My father died in December of 1918.

I was sixteen and Dick was eighteen when we were married. We didn't have a pot nor a window to throw it out of. However that didn't bother us at all. That year, we lived with my folks. My dad gave us a share of the crop. We sold the wheat for 18 cents a bushel. I think the total came to \$49 dollars.

Dick's dad had bought another quarter of land with a house on it, so Dick and I moved into it.

Our first baby was born at home, assisted by my mother and the midwife, Mrs. Phoebe McCullough. She was also a very close friend. Our second baby, Joyce was also born at home.

We all remember the hungry thirties. Dick picked stones all day long for Florian Theroux and was paid 35 cents a day. One whole winter, he went to the bush and cut wood. He would sell a big load for 50 cents. He also worked for Silver Orlecki for 15 dollars a month. At threshing time he earned \$1.50 a day.

Dick was a pretty good vet. In the spring of the year, he would ride from one farm to another to neuter colts, hogs and calves. This brought in extra money.

I took over Mrs. McCullough's job of midwife after she left Chesterville. I delivered sixteen babies in the Chesterville district, six of them were Hrushka's. I never at any time charged for this service. When I delivered Rose Marie Logozar, on the 11th of November, 1941, Bill gave me \$5.00. I thought I was rich!

The Lafond people will remember when I used to play the organ at dances. Cyprian Foisy played

the violin and Archie McLean the guitar. If we were lucky we each got paid \$1.50. It was fun. Incidentally, I still have that old organ. It has so much sentimental value.

Casting all jokes aside, Dick and I with our two kids were a happy family. We had many wonderful friends and neighbors. Our welcome mat was at the door to anyone at any time. We shared what we had, even to those precious roll-your-own cigarettes. Our neighbors and friends in turn shared what they had with us. Those are precious memories.

January 5th, 1942 we had another baby, we named her Gloria Amy. She was born in the St. Therese Hospital, St. Paul, Alberta. In November of 1945, we moved to Edmonton. Dick worked in Burn's Packing Plant boxing beef. From there he went to work for the Bay on the janitorial staff. At the time of his retirement, he was Supervisor of the Porter staff at the Bay's Southgate store. He had put in thirty-two years of service.

In 1951, I decided to join the labour force. My first job was clerking at the Metropolitan Store. I was there for four years. Then I went on to work for Hillas Electric for a couple of years. I also worked at Alberta Electrical Supplies for fourteen years. I now have been eight years with Alberta Lighting. I have a diploma as a lighting Consultant. In two years, I will be retired. Dick and I hope to do a bit of travelling, the good Lord willing. Time will tell.

Our son Eugene married Florence Charrois. They have two children Glenn and Tessa.

Our Joyce chose to remain single.

Our Gloria is married to Fred Goodchild. She has three children from her first marriage, Karen, Troy and Calvin.



Mr. F. X. Lapierre when he was 96. Marie Louise Simon, 60. Therese Chester 35, Eugene Chester 19, and Glen Chester 14 days old. (5 Generations) March 29/53.

EUGENE (GENE) CHESTER FAMILY

submitted by Florence Chester

Eugene (Gene) Chester, oldest child and only son of Richard Chester and Therese Ouellet was born on November 1, 1933 in a farm home in the Chesterville community. Gene was helped into the world by his maternal grandmother, Mrs. Marie Louise Simon and mid-wife Mrs. Phoebe McCullough, a very good family friend.

Gene has fond memories of his early childhood years on the farm. Riding to school in the cutter pulled by Molly and Pearl, racing with his favorite horse Mae and their big dog Toby who was the family guardian.

When the Chesters left the farm in November of 1945 they moved to the city of Edmonton. For a while they lived in a small apartment by Waterloo Motors uptown. Then they moved into a big house down by the Low Level Bridge.

Gene attended Junior High at Grandin school. It was while at this learning establishment that he met his wife to be, Florence Charrois. After graduating from Junior High he attended St. Joseph's High School.

It was in October of 1952 that Gene married his High School sweetheart in St. Edmund's Church in the Calder community of Edmonton.



The Gene Chester Family — Tessa, Phillis, Glenn, Florence with grandson Ben and Gene 1977.



The Eugene Chester Family — 1975.
L. to R. Gene, Florence, Glenn. The front girl is Tessa, Phyllis is Gene's daughter-in-law.

Gene started working with Canadian Utilities in July of 1952 on the head office construction crew. His first boss on construction was Steve Hrushka also from the Chesterville area and a family friend. During the next few years we lived in several different communities throughout the province. Our first home was in Vermilion. Our son Glenn was born two weeks before we moved to Stettler, our next move. From there we went back to Vermilion for a while, spent two months in Cold Lake, then on to Lloydminster where we would live for two years. Marwayne was our next stop and where Tessa came into our lives. We lived there for nine years. Gene then transferred to Hay River where we spent three years in the Northwest Territories. During the course of the years Canadian Utilities changed to Alberta Power Limited. We moved from Hay River to Grande Prairie and made that our home for eight years. In March of 1977, we moved to our present home here in Slave Lake.

Gene has been with Alberta Power for twenty-eight years and is now Construction and Maintenance Supervisor for the Slave Lake district. If all goes well, he will retire in another seven years with a full pension at the age of fifty-five.

Gene and Florence have two children.

Glenn who married Phyllis Skoworodko in Grande Prairie in August of 1975. They have one son, Benjamin, born in September of 1977. At the time of this writing they are expecting their second child, in February of 1981.

Tessa will be graduating from the Roland Michener High School in Slave Lake at the end of this term. She plans on going to University in the field of Physical Education.

A SUMMARY OF GLORIA AMY CHESTER

submitted by Gloria Goodchild

My parents are Richard (Dick) Chester and Therese Ouellet. I was born in the St. Therese Hospital, January 5, 1942. Dr. Decosse Sr. and Sister Duplants were the ones who delivered me. I weighed 9 lbs., 11 ozs. My Godparents are Alcide and Albina Foisy. I was baptized at Lafond by Father Mailloux.



Gloria Chester (Goodchild) with her children, Karen, Calvin and Troy in 1965.



First communion of Gloria Chester with her cousins Richard and Don McCullough.

My memories of Chesterville and Lafond are very limited. I was 3½ years old when my parents left the farm and started a new life in the city.

I remember our home on the farm. It was a nice old log house built by my Grandfather, Alphonse Simon. It had a large kitchen, a large living room and one bedroom downstairs. Upstairs was one very large room and a smaller one over the kitchen.

I remember the built-in cabinets in our kitchen. It was something all farm homes couldn't boast about. The huge box was filled with wood for the cook stove. It was my brother Gene's job to keep it well stocked up. There was a red cream separator. Now that I think back, what a machine that was! How did it divide the cream from the milk? But it did. Gene or my sister Joyce took turns turning it.

The foam rose 3 to 4 inches thick on the milk, both the cats and I loved to eat it. I remember the calves were fed in a pail. Dad gave me a little girl calf. I named her Beauty. She was red with a white face. I recall that I didn't care too much for the smelly pigs. My Grampa and Grama Chester gave me a little lamb which I bottle fed. He followed me all over the place. Our old dog, Toby, was a real pet. How we hated to leave him behind when we left the farm, however we knew that he would have a good home with my Uncle Ben Marsh.

Like all little farm girls, I owned a yellow and white cat. I called him "Gidoo", why, I'll never know. During the winter my cat disappeared. The whole family searched. I was very upset and I cried. We did not find him at that time but in the spring when my Dad was pulling water for the cattle, lo and behold, he pulled Gidoo out of the well with a pail of water. Come to think of it, we drank water out of that well and I can't recall anyone getting sick.

We left the farm in November, 1945. Bob Tomlinson Jr. came over with his truck and loaded all of our belongings. The old pump organ that my mother still owns was one item. A neighbor and friend, Mrs. Clark and her daughter Mona were also leaving. Their luggage was thrown on. It was very cold. Mrs. Clark, my Mom and I sat in the cab with the driver. My Dad, my Grampa Simon, Mona



Dick Chester with his grandchildren, Troy, Calvin and Karen McPherson in 1965.

Clark, Gene and Joyce all huddled in the back with the luggage.

That night we stayed in the Two Hills hotel. It was great excitement for us kids. I found a dime and accidentally swallowed it. I was sure I was going to die. However, Mrs. Clark reassured me that I had nothing to worry about. I soon forgot about it.

We found our train ride in to Edmonton a thrilling adventure. In Edmonton we parted company with Mrs. Clark and Mona. They transferred to another train on their way to Longview, Alberta. We were met at the train by my Uncle, George Simon, and went on to my grandmother's.

Dad quickly got a job in St. Albert, working on a raspberry farm, owned by Mr. Wilson. There were rows and rows of raspberry canes. Mr. Wilson hired Metis men and women to prune, weed, hoe etc. My Dad supervised the work. When the berry crop came in full force, people for miles would come and pick berries. At the end of the day, they weighed in and paid 25 cents per pound.

It was in St. Albert that I got my first tricycle. I remember my Mom and I going to St. Albert together, she walked and I rode my trike. It was only $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile away. We would often visit my Great Grandfather Francois Xavier Lapierre. At that time, he was in the Youville Nursing Home in St. Albert.

Almost two years later, we moved back to Edmonton. It was very difficult to find a place to live, however, we finally got what we always called a room and one half. There we lived for 3 years and also made room for friends or relatives, who had nowhere to go.

Gene, Joyce and I went to Grandin School on 110 Street and 99 Ave. Dad went to work for the Bay. Through a very close friend, Mrs. Phoebe

McCullough, we finally got a house and moved down by the Low Level Bridge. We thought it was a palace. Eventually my folks bought their own home in Hazeldean. There I graduated from St. Mary's High School. From there, my folks bought another home in the Gold Bar community where they still reside.

On June 20, 1959, I married Bob McPherson. We had three children. The first, a girl, Karen Lisa, born June 29, 1960. The second, a boy, Troy Richard, born November 18, 1961. Our third, a boy, Calvin Eugene, born February 27, 1963.

My first marriage was unsuccessful and after several years earning a living for myself and my three children, I married a second time.

December 5, 1975, Fred Goodchild Jr. and I were married. Fred was born in England. At the age of nine, he came to Canada with his parents, Fred and June Goodchild, his brother Tom, and sister Sheila. He later had another brother, David, born in Canada.

At the time of writing this, we live in MacKenzie, B.C. Since I have always been fond of pets, we own our pet shop called 'Blackwater Tropicals'. I like clipping poodles or grooming any type of dog.

Fred is a journeyman plumber and works at his trade, also works in one of the mills here.

Karen is with us. Troy works for the CNR. Calvin is with Vims Sales and Rentals. The two boys are in Edmonton with one of their grandparents.

IVY CHESTER

by Therese Chester

Ivy is the daughter of John Chester Sr. and Amy Billington. Like all the other Chester children, she was born at home on the Chesterville homestead, on June 23, 1908. She attended the Chesterville School.

There was a lot of work to be done on the homestead. Ivy never found a task too hard nor too heavy to be taken care of. Beside outside chores, she found time to knit, embroider and cook.

During the canning season, she and her sisters canned jars and jars of berries, fruit, meat, vegetables and pickles. The loaded shelves were a sight to behold.

The years slipped by and, suddenly, Ivy was the only one left with her parents. No longer able to attend to all the daily chores, they sold the farm. They left with some sadness and moved to St. Paul. The following year both her parents passed away.

Ivy did not stay idle. She went to work as babysitter and housekeeper for Mr. and Mrs. Romeo Bedard. They had two children. This was from 1955 to 1956. The next five years, 1956 to 1961, she worked for Ray and Joyce Rierison. They had four children born to them while Ivy was with them. She became part of the family. The children were

like her own. In 1961, Ivy worked for Stan and Eileen Crampton. In 1963, she was employed by Horace and Marcella Campeau. They had three children. Her last job as housekeeper was for Mr. and Mrs. Fernando Girard, from 1969 to 1971. She then retired.

Ivy spends most of her time in the St. Paul Nursing Home where her sister Mary Austin, is a patient.

We, the Chester family, like to remember Ivy as "the pillar of strength" that gave our Mom and Dad (Jack and Amy) the support they needed in their twilight years. She truly was their Golden Arm.

THE JOHN (JACK) CHESTER AND FAMILY HISTORY

submitted by Therese Chester

Jack was born in England on May 20th, 1870. As a very young man, he had a very strong urge for travelling, so he left England and went to Australia. He earned his living doing any type of work that came along. Like all young men, when he felt bored with one job, he wandered someplace else and found something else to do. He spent quite some time in New Guinea. There he contacted some kind of tropical fever. Due to a high temperature, he lost most of his hair. When recovered from this illness, he found work in a glue factory. His job was feeding bones into a machine. This was a tedious job, so Jack decided to create a little bit of excitement. By pushing too many bones into the machine at once, he jammed it. His boss was just a cussing and muttering, so Jack told him, in no uncertain terms, just where he could shove his bones and the whole glue factory and quit.

From there, he went on to New Zealand where he met and married Amy Billington. Amy was born in Auckland, New Zealand on October 26th 1880.



Jack and Amy Chester with a bumper crop of vegetables.

Jack and Amy had three little girls born in New Zealand, the first was Suzie, then Nancy and Mary.

In 1904, the Chester family emigrated to Canada. After a brief stay in Strathcona, they travelled many miles with horses and wagon. On May 24th, 1906, they arrived on their homestead which was to be their home for the rest of their lives.

While they were building a house, the Chesters lived in a dug-out, a rough shelter in the side of a hill. It was in that temporary dwelling that Amy gave birth to a son, John Jr., the first born in Chesterville and their first Canadian baby.

We all know how hard our pioneers worked, Jack and Amy worked as hard as any of them. With the exception of the first three girls, all were born on the homestead. The names of their other children are John, Ivy, Amy, Rose, Richard (Dick), Ethel, Edith and Elizabeth. When radios first came out on the market, Jack purchased one. Many a pleasant evening was spent when neighbors came over to listen in awe to the voices and music coming over the air.



The Chesters — Dick, Edith, Amy, Ivy, Rose, Sue, Ethel, Mary, John.

Jack and Amy's dream of being ranchers never materialized, however, they did at one time own fifty to sixty head of cattle, eighteen of those were milk cows that Amy and the girls milked morning and night. There were about the same number of horses and they farmed five quarters of land and a fraction.



Jack Chester taken in Edmonton.

In February 1954, Jack Chester passed away, his wife, Amy, followed him in June of the same year. They were laid to rest in the St. Paul Protestant Grave Yard. They were predeceased by their second daughter, Nancy Huffman, who passed away January 5, 1936. At the time of writing, their son, John, passed away in August, 1979.

Suzie married Avery Wallace. They had four children — Richard, Bernice, Ruby and Delia.

Mary married Frank Austin. They had two children, Amy and David.

Ivy remained single.

Rose married Ben Marsh, they had two daughters, Edith and Betty.

Richard (Dick) married Therese Ouellet. They had three children, Eugene, Joyce and Gloria.

Ethel married Fred Gibbons. They had one daughter, Patricia.

Edith married Lud Blaskin. They had three children, Jimmy, Faye and Richard.

Elizabeth married Bert Moreau. They had two children, Valerie and Geoffrey.

JOYCE CHESTER

as submitted by Therese Chester

Joyce is the daughter of Richard (Dick) Chester and Therese Ouellet. Born in Chesterville, April 6, 1935 at home, delivered by a close friend and midwife, Phoebe McCullough. Joyce's grandmother, Mrs. Marie-Louse Simon was there making sure all was in readiness for Joyce's arrival.

Joyce attended school in Chesterville. Her first school teacher was Mrs. Reichenbach, a very motherly lady who really favored Joyce, since Joyce had a nice singing voice even at the age of six. Mrs. Reichenbach would stand her up on her desk and she would sing to the class. The Lafond and Ches-

terville people might remember when Joyce sang in the Lafond church basement and won five dollars. The song title was "Little Kid Sister of Mine".

In 1945, Father Mailloux had silent movies shown in the church basement. This was great entertainment for the young and old. In the summer Joyce and her brother Gene would ride to Lafond to see the movies, in winter they drove a horse and cutter.

Joyce grew up a singing girl and she also learned to play the guitar. Many a pleasant evening was had by her family as they had sing-songs while she played the guitar.

In Edmonton, she attended Grandin School, Mount Carmel and St. Josephs High School.

Joyce couldn't stand office work. She had many jobs, from hairdressing to truck driving.

Abbey Glen hired Joyce as their first woman security officer. Prior to joining Abbey Glen at Meadowlark, Joyce worked at the University Post Office, the International Airport and Bonnie Doon Shopping Centre. The most interesting time of her security career was when she was at the General Hospital. Joyce recalls many sad stories and also some very humorous ones as well.



Joyce Chester — first woman security officer for Abbey Glen.

Joyce went to work for Woodcraft Signs. There she did sand blasting. She looked like an astronaut in her blasting attire. This she found as a nerve shattering job, so she is now doing what she enjoys the most. She is a supervisor for Loomis, a courier service, after being a driver for some time.

Joyce calls her nieces and nephews her family. She really enjoys them all very much.

OLGA AND HARRY CHMILAR

by William Chmilar

Harry Chmilar was born in Koniuskiw, Ukraine in 1888. He came to Canada with his family in 1908 and worked at lumbering and railroading jobs. During the First World War he served three years with the Canadian Expeditionary Force in Canada and England. In 1921, he and Olga Kitiuk were married at Vermilion, Alberta and in 1923 they

homesteaded in the Lac Bellevue area. In 1944, the Chmilars moved to St. Paul and the following year to Edmonton where Harry died in 1957.

Olga Kitiuk was born in Denysiw, Ukraine in 1897 and came to Canada in 1913 with her family. She worked in Edmonton, Vegreville and Vermilion in hotels and a hospital until her marriage. She lived in Edmonton for many years and died in Calgary in 1977.



Olga and Harry Chmilar about 1942.

The Chmilar's had one son, William born in Vermilion in 1922 who went to school at Lac Canard and St. Paul. He spent three years in the RCAF during the World War II and served with the Pathfinder Force of RAF Bomber Command in England, for which he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. After the war, he took an engineering degree at the University of Alberta and then worked in oil exploration in Western Canada, the U.S. and England. Since 1969, he has been working in Calgary as a geophysicist.

CHORNOHUS FAMILY

by Lena O'Neill (Chornohus)

Nick Chornohus emigrated to Canada from Austria in 1914. He worked on farms in Saskatchewan and Alberta. He married Helen Strynadka in 1919 and started farming in Hamlin and Shandro.

He purchased a half-section of land in St. Brides in 1926. There were no buildings on this land, so a log house was built with the help of his neighbour Bill Kuz. Nick and Helen raised a family of six children; Lena, Bill, John, Mike, Steve, Metro.

In 1927 the St. Brides Settlers started to arrive. Dad owned a blacksmith shop and sharpened shares for the plows for the settlers.

Dad could not speak English but did learn fast. Brother Bill and I started school at St. Brides but could not speak English. In two months with the teachers' help, we were able to speak and write English.

My mom passed away in 1942. Later Dad (Nick) sold the land and moved to Foisy, Alta. He farmed until his retirement. He passed away in 1973, at the age of 78. Lena, Bill and John live in St. Paul. Mike and Metro passed away. Steve lives in Ft. McMurray.

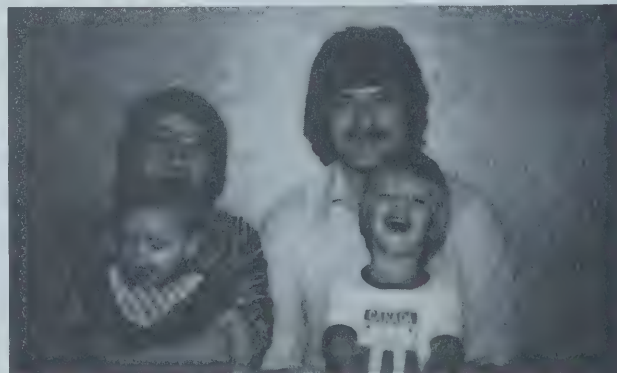
WILLIAM CHORNOHUS AND FAMILY

by Virginia Chornohus nee Yettaw

William Chornohus was born in Shandro, Alberta, January 31, 1923. He was the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Nick Chornohus. From Shandro he moved to St. Brides with his parents. At the age of 18 years he joined the Canadian Army. He served in Canada and overseas for 4 years becoming Trooper Lance Corporal. While in the army, his mother passed away and his father moved to the Foisy district on the former Jos Henley's farm. He was discharged from the army in January 1946. He married Virginia Yettaw on June 4th, 1946 in the Roman Catholic Church of Lafond. They bought land west of Foisy Store and farmed in the district for 30 years moving to St. Paul in the spring of 1976. They have 4 children.



Virginia and Bill Chornohus, in 1976.



Darlene (Chornohus) and Ron Balash with their children Judy and Jason.



Barbara (Chornohus) and Keith Douglas with their children, Kevin, Shane, Kirk.



Back row: Ronald Chornohus and son Tod — Front row: Elaine (Lavallee) Chornohus, Deena, Scot.

1. Ronald — Attended school in Lafond — Married Elaine Lavallee. They have 3 children, Todd, Scot and Deena — He is employed by Esso Resources, Whitecourt, Alberta.
2. Barbara — Attended school in Lafond and Two Hills — Married Keith Douglas. They have 3 children, Kirk, Kevin and Shane. Her husband is employed by Dow Chemicals as an electrician.



Barry Chornohus in 1977.

3. Barry — Attended school in Lafond and Two Hills, then went to NAIT in Edmonton. He graduated from McGill University, Montreal, Quebec with a B.A. in Economics. He lives in Edmonton and is employed by Revenue Canada (Taxation).
4. Darlene married Ron Balash. They have two children, Judy and Jason.

HARRY SIMION CHRAPKO

by Metro Chrapko

Harry Simion Chrapko (1913-1975) was born on September 13, 1913 to Simion and Pearl Chrapko a few months after his parents arrived in Canada.

Harry did not enjoy school as a youngster and quit at an early age. This proved to be a serious disadvantage throughout his life.

Harry stayed with his parents working on the farm and for neighbours until his parents passed away. After they died, Harry stayed with his older brother, John and his wife Eva, at Foisy and occasionally with other members of his family. Whether it was the wanderlust or loneliness and heartbreaking memories, no one will ever know, but on occasion Harry would leave John's and Eva's home and work around Vegreville for farmers near his old home. After a year or two, he would return to John's and help on the farm or help other neighbours.

The longest period of time Harry was away from John's and Eva's was during World War II. Harry was working for a farmer near Vegreville. The story has it that Harry got called up to the army but failed his medical. Not knowing how to read he was not aware that he did not have to go to war. However, the farmer threatened him, telling him that he would report him to the R.C.M.P. and he would have to go overseas if he did not continue to work for him. Harry stayed on. Metro, John's eldest son and a small child at the time, remembers turning in to see Harry on their return trip from



Taken about 1926.
Dan and Harry Chrapko.

Edmonton. Metro begged Harry to come home with them, however, Harry stayed. Metro wept most of the way home, not understanding why Harry could not come.

Harry enjoyed walking and either visiting neighbours or going to town no matter what the weather. Many in the district will no doubt recall seeing Harry in their headlights walking late at night bent against a snow storm or the chill of a freezing winters night.

Most of his life, Harry did the only thing he knew, working for or helping farmers. Sometimes for a pittance, sometimes for a place to stay. The family will always be grateful to those who treated him fairly and showed him kindness. For several years before he died, Victor, his nephew and his wife Elizabeth looked after his needs and provided him with the home they first lived in after they got married, on John Pundick's old farm.

Harry remained a bachelor all his life. While in the University Hospital to correct a minor eye ailment, Harry was struck by a sudden massive stroke. He died within 2 days in 1975. He was buried in Vegreville in the same cemetery as his par-

ents, and rests in peace only a few steps from his mother's grave as she wanted it to be.

JOHN S. AND EVA CHRAPKO

by Metro Chrapko

John Simion Chrapko (1904-1972) the oldest son of Simion Chrapko (1876-1936) and Pearl Chrapko (nee Zacharuk) (1882-1935) was born in Berhomet, Bukowina, located on the fertile land of western Ukraine. The Ukraine was then under the Austrian Hungarian Empire of Frans Joseph 1. In all there were nine children: Mary, John, Mike, and Dan were born in the Ukraine and Harry, Jennie, Martha, Elsie, and George who died as an infant, were born in Canada.

John attended school in the Ukraine until he was nine at which time his parents decided to emigrate to Canada.

Simion, his wife and their family of four children sailed from Bermen, Brandenburg, Germany on May 28, 1913 arriving, in Halifax, Canada on June 9, 1913. From Halifax they travelled west by train to Alberta, then to the Luzan district. Upon arrival they were reunited with Simion's father, John Stephan Chrapko who had been homesteading on the N.E. 1/4 21-55-11-W4th since 1908.

It should be noted that John Stephan Chrapko was an elderly man when he came to Canada long before Simion and his family arrived. He also experienced his share of problems on the homestead. In 1909, a year after he made application of the homestead, a prairie fire destroyed the logs he was to use for building his home and farmstead. A statement on the status of the homestead sworn before a Justice of the Peace in April of 1910 states in part:

"After having drawn timber on the place with the purpose of building, it has been burned down from prairie fire in April 1909 and then from lack of means, I was in the impossibility of getting more timber for the time being. Therefore I lived with my nephew temporarily and until lately."

At the time of making the sworn statement he had broken 7 acres of land, built a house in March 1910 worth \$145.00, owned two oxen and a cow. He was 70 years of age at the time.

He was almost dispossessed of the homestead when another prospective homesteader filed an application in November 1910 for a homestead on the same land, claiming there had been no residency on the land. The matter was later resolved and John Stephan Chrapko (Simion's father) continued making improvement to the homestead.

Despite the setbacks by 1912, he had broken and cropped 24 acres of land, owned 2 head of cattle, 3 horses, constructed a 12' x 16' log stable, 16' x 18' log granary, dug a well and wire fenced the whole quarter section. In that same year he

applied for a patent to the land and was finally granted title on May 22, 1915.

Hearing of the problems his father was experiencing in Canada and the promise of a new future was what prompted Simion to come to Canada.

Simion and his family stayed on the homestead to clear and improve it and in November 1915 Simion took over the property. They remained there until 1928 when Mike the second oldest son took over the property and Simion purchased land approximately 2 miles north and 4 miles east of Vegreville. They continued to farm there until his wife Pearl passed away in 1935 and Simion died in 1936.

After the family arrived in Canada John went to school in the Luzan district and worked with his parents on the farm until his late teens.

He enjoyed telling the story of his first day in school and the comical incident that occurred because of the language barrier between the teacher and the new immigrant students. The teacher, in an attempt to establish a proper grading according to Alberta standards, was reviewing the subjects John had taken in the Ukraine. He asked John what language John could read. John, not being fluent in English replied in Ukrainian "Poh latinski" meaning "in Latin". The teacher was stumped. He thumbed through his dictionary and other books of knowledge but never did find this odd language "Poh latinski". Education was sporadic in those days, depending on whether a teacher could be hired or whether the children had to miss school to help their parents on the farm during the busy season.

At about age 19, John left Luzan and worked for a short period at Tangent, building the railway

in the Peace River country. He then went to the Lethbridge area and alternated working in the coal mines at Coalhurst in winter and for farmers in the summer to learn the "modern techniques" of farming. In the off season he would return home to Luzan to help his father and brothers improve the homestead. John loved farming. After earning enough money to get started, he purchased the S¹/₂ 29-56-11-W4th at Foisy in June, 1928. In July of the same year, he married Eva Skakun. Here they raised their family of five, Clara the only daughter



Eva and John Chrapko 1968. 40th wedding Anniversary.



John and Eva Chrapko's 40th Anniversary. Top row: Allen Shemanchuk, Ivan, Ronald, Joseph Shemanchuk, Metro, Victor, Ronald Shemanchuk. Bottom row: Clara, Eva, John, Elizabeth and Cecile, children are Evan and Tonia. Taken 1968.

and four sons, Metro, Victor, Ronald, and Ivan. They lived and worked on the land until John passed away in 1972. Shortly after they were married, the depression hit and the family remembers his accounts of almost losing the farm in the 1930's when cows were worth \$4.00 per head and wheat went down to 18¢ per bushel.

John was a progressive minded farmer. The TD 35 "caterpillar" (crawler tractor) called "Charlie" which he purchased about 1939 broke many acres of land on the Saddle Lake Reserve and for surrounding farmers. It was one of the first of its kind in the Two Hills and St. Paul municipalities at the time. It was not uncommon to see John Chrapko working around the clock on his caterpillar pulling the two brush breakers and other farm machinery in "tandem". He was also the first to purchase a 1943 IHC self-propelled combine in the district and the first to service his farmstead with electric power.

John insisted on doing things right and doing them well. He believed in quality of seed, quality of stock, and quality of workmanship. His philos-

ophy was that "the land you walked on should be proud you passed over it."

He was always striving to modernize his farm operations. In the early 40's, before automation, he purchased a building which was formally a garage in Lafond, moved it to his farmstead and converted it into a self-feeding hog barn. Feeding troughs were designed with flap gates attached to a hopper type bin full of chop. These flap gates would open and allow a small amount of feed to flow whenever the hogs would push on them with their snouts. It worked fine, however, hogs being the insatiable animals they are, tended to push on the flap gates long after they had their fill. This tended to waste feed. It was the nature of the beast rather than the initial idea that eventually prompted John to revert to hand feeding. Nevertheless, over the years many bushels of coarse grain were converted to pork when grain quotas limited grain sales and cash flow was required.

John was gifted with a basic common sense approach in his dealings with people and in the things he did. Although unsuccessful in receiving the award, John and his family were nominated as candidates for the Master Farm Family Award in 1964.

John was also a strong community worker. He helped build the Foisy Hall and promoted community functions and Ukrainian concerts there. John was involved in action groups for the building of the Duvernay bridge. The local Farmers Union of Alberta always had his support and he was a member of the Champlain Community Hall. Delegations to government for the betterment of farm communities through improved legislation often saw John leave urgent work in order to contribute.

One story John enjoyed telling and as his son recollects, concerned the ferry crossing at Duvernay. It occurred about 5:00 a.m. one fall morning when farmers from the north side of the river were lining up at the ferry with their wagon loads of grain bound for the elevators in Two Hills. His neighbour, John Bodnar and Mr. Zawadiuk were with John when a highways inspector drove up in either a model T or model A Ford and proceeded to the front of the line. This sort of behaviour was very much frowned upon and common courtesy dictated that one always lined up in turn at ferry crossings. All the farmers were annoyed, but since the inspector was a "government official", did not object. John Bodnar however, took strong exception to the inspector's behaviour, walked up to him and politely told him to get to the back of the line. The disgruntled inspector complied. It was some two or three hours later before John Chrapko and his neighbours crossed the ferry. After delivering their grain and resting their horses at Two Hills, they returned to the Duvernay ferry about 4:00 p.m. that afternoon to find the highway inspector finally crossing the ferry southbound. The next



Eva and John Chrapko, Wedding picture 1928.

spring, work commenced on the steel bridge at Duvernay. John always felt that the incident with the inspector, more than any delegations to the Government, finally convinced the government that a bridge was needed in Duvernay.

Another of his contributions to public service was when he served as councillor in Division 4 in the Municipal District of St. Paul from 1947 to 1955. During his term in office, the first gravelled road was constructed from the Duvernay bridge to Highway #28. Traces of the road still remain. Should one wish to travel it, proceed north of Duvernay bridge 3 miles, then east for 3 miles to Foisy Hall, north to the intersection near John's former farm now farmed by his son Victor, east for 2 miles where Foisy store was originally located. (The store was moved to its present site after Highway #36 was constructed about 1952), continue north for 2 miles then east to Lafond and finally due north until you reach Highway #28. Many other roads were improved in the Division during his term in office. When the municipal boundaries changed, John decided to retire from office.

The welcome mat was always out at John and Eva's home. The family remembers winters where men hauling tamarack logs or sleigh boxes laden with whitefish and pickeral from the north would stop for food and shelter for their horses and themselves. The house was never locked and on occasion the family would return home from visiting neighbours to see the coal oil lamp lighting up the old home and discover that the men had made themselves at home. The family also remembers when teams of horses and wagons were the mode of travel and families of local Indian natives camped on the road just west of the farmstead. Eva was always able to find something whether it was some bacon, meat, eggs, or potatoes to share with their families. In the "good old days" the roads would drift in and vehicular travel was impossible — snow plows came later, the mailman who hauled the mail between St. Paul and Two Hills stabled and switched teams at John's place. John had the fresh team har-

nessed and ready for the next leg of the trip while Eva had the coffee, a quick snack and hot coals for the foot warmer in the sleigh ready for Mr. Pronovost, the mailman. Many will also remember Pat Paul who hauled mail in those days and also played for dances with his band throughout the area.

The Canadian Utilities crew that constructed the first power line from Two Hills to St. Paul also camped at John's. Eva cooked for the crews. Part of the agreement with the company was that John could tie into the power supply when he was ready to install electricity on the farm. It was uncommon to permit individual farmers to receive power, however this was how John was able to be supplied with power and it was installed after he constructed his new home before rural electrification became a reality.

One incident stands out in the family's memory during the time the power line crews camped at the farm. A severe rain storm hit the area, tearing the tents to shreds, carrying away most of the men's bedding, clothes and supplies. Until new provisions could arrive John and Eva supplied the men with whatever they could and bunked them in the hayloft and granaries.

John never spared himself in anything he did and in 1956 after years of hard work and worries, the first signs of a failing heart appeared. He would not consider slowing down, however by 1970 his condition became acute. That same fall his problems were compounded when he suffered a stroke which paralyzed his left side. Characteristically he did not quit and approximately six months later after treatment and persistent effort on his part was able to get around again. On September 21, 1972, while in the Two Hills Hospital for a routine checkup, John passed away peacefully from heart failure. He rests in the Two Hills Cemetery.

Like John's, Eva's life story also begins in the Ukraine.

Andronik (Andrew) Skakun (1864-1930) youngest of a family of six was born to Andrew Skakun and Irene (nee Kozak) on May 19, 1864.

Documents vary but it appears Andronik was born in Shepenitz, Kotzman, Bukowina, Ukraine.

He had 3 brothers and 2 sisters, Michaelo, Tanasko, Nicolai, a sister name unknown who married a Yaremichuk and sister Katerina.

Andronik grew up on his parents farm in the Ukraine and was an avid student. As a young man, he was employed with the government railway as a crossing control officer. Later a marriage was arranged — those things were done in those days — between himself and Marafta (Martha) Arychuk (1874-1966). Martha was born December 17, 1874, daughter of Hrihory Arychuk and (nee Meroniuk).

Martha was the third oldest in a family of 5 children. Her brothers and sisters were Hrihory (Harry), Penteley, Annitsa (Annie) and Maria (Mary).



Taken 1926. Bill Budnik, John Waselasko, John Chrapko, Nick Wasalasko at Saddle Lake looking for homesteads.

Andronik and Martha Skakun had 12 children. Harry and Bill who died as infants, Mary, Metro, Peter, Sophie, Jennie, Nick (who burned himself as a small boy and died) and Eva were born in the Ukraine. Sons Nick (named after deceased brother), Adam, and Bill (who was also named after his deceased brother) were born in Canada.

On March 23, 1912, Andronik arranged passports for him and his family to depart for Canada. They sailed on the Mount Royal, arriving in Quebec on May 10, 1912. His brother Nicolai and his family who homesteaded on the N.E. ¼ 34-55-11-W4th near Luzan and a niece Rayaheta, daughter of his brother Tanasko came to Canada at the same time. Rayehta later married Phillip Mandryk of Vegreville.

From Quebec, the family travelled by train, arriving in Vegreville in June. At this point the account of events varies. One account is that the family was greeted at the station by Hrihory Kereliuk and Bill Meroniuk, Martha's uncle, and Ignaty Logozar. From there the family moved in to stay with Ignaty Logozar on his homestead on the S.W. 10-56-11-W4th near Brosseau. Late in July, Fedor Melnyk, who married Martha's sister, Anne, moved them to stay with his family near Star. The other account is that they were greeted at Vegreville by Bill Meroniuk and Hrihory Werenka. The family then stayed at Bill Meroniuks, 1 mile west and 2 miles north of Two Hills until they moved to Melynks.

On August 12, 1912, Andronik applied for a homestead in the area near Penno, on the N.W. ¼ 3-58-18-W4th. The homestead was located approximately one mile south of the North Saskatchewan River and the Creek after which Penno Post Office was named flowed through their homestead. By November Andronik had built an earth covered home where the family wintered. His wife Martha was not happy living in that district and wanted to return to live near her uncles Bill and Peter Meroniuk, this coupled with the fact that the soil was very sandy and of generally poor quality, prompted Andronik to cancel that homestead and on February 6, 1913 file for another on the S.W. ¼ 36-55-11-W4th near Luzan and again about one mile south of the North Saskatchewan River. Before Easter of that year, the family moved and set up temporary quarters in an earth covered house at John Haraysm's homestead, about one and a half miles away from Andronik's homestead.

The family recalls that Andronik immediately went trying to provide for his family by asking for a sack of wheat from several people, then combining a whole lot, crushing it for flour. The mixture proved to be very dark in color and coarse in texture resulting in a "black bread" that looked more like cake than the bread we know today. His daughter Jennie recalls one occasion when Andronik was in

a particularly argumentative mood when a neighbour came to visit. The neighbour suggested, "Give your father some of that cake and he'll fall asleep contented."

The family hewed out their land and built their accommodation from the trees at hand. The 15' x 30' log house on the homestead comprised of two rooms. One room was a combination kitchen and dining area, the other a living room and sleeping quarters. Each evening boards were layed across benches and covered with quilts and large feather pillows to make up a large common bed where the family slept.

Unless you had the means, or were already established and could afford horses, walking was the only mode of travel. The family remembers Andronik walking from Luzan to Star to pick up a cow in-calf at Melnyks and driving her back to the homestead. Times were hard for most homesteaders. Andronik and Martha continued to improve their land and farmstead and worked at odd jobs to earn whatever money they could. One project well remembered and which Andronik helped in, was the plastering of the Duvernay Hotel.

Martha cooked for weddings and served as mid-wife in the community. Many in the Brosseau-Duvernay area will no doubt remember their mothers telling them that Martha helped bring them into this world.

On September 5, 1919 at age 55, Andronik applied for patent to the land. By then he had 30 acres of land broken and cropped, a 15' x 30' log house, 2 stables 16' x 28', 1 granary, 1 chicken house, put up 2 miles of wire and a rail fence and owned 6 horses, and 12 head of cattle. On December 23, 1920 a patent to the land was issued to Andronik Skakun.

Two tragic events followed. Metro at about age 22 wrote a note saying that he was returning to help develop the Ukraine. With only that note, he left and never returned. Nick (named after a previously deceased brother) at about age 12 broke through the ice while crossing a slough with friends and drowned.

In 1930 another tragedy befell the family when Andronik drowned in the North Saskatchewan River at Duvernay. Ice on the river hampered the search and his body was not recovered until the following spring, at North Battleford, Saskatchewan.

Bill and Adam, the 2 youngest sons, stayed on to help their mother on the farm during the depression of the 1930's. Later Adam left, Bill remained and lived on the farm until he married. After Bill bought his farm at Lafond, his mother stayed with his family. Later she moved to her daughter, Mary Rosychuk at Foisy and finally to her other daughter Jennie Logozar at Brosseau. Martha passed away August 1, 1966 and rests in peace at Mamaestie Cemetery.

Most of the children after leaving home to work or marry, settled in the district north of the North Saskatchewan River. Some of the grandchildren still remember Christmas at Baba's (grandmother's) when sleigh loads of families crossed the river at a river crossing, north of the homestead. At times, because of the steep icy river banks, the horses could not pull their load without falling. Everyone would have to get off the sleighs and walk behind in the crisp, frosty, moonlit night as the horses struggled up each steep incline. Somehow grandma always managed to give each child a present. The eraser tipped pencil and newsprint scribbler was cherished and treasured. How everyone was able to fit into the small house remains a mystery. However, there always seemed to be room enough for merriment and play while the adults feasted, laughed and sang those beautiful old Ukrainian songs and Christmas Carols.

In 1972 the old log house, the stable and a portion of the old willow picket fence near the entrance gate still remained. A little the worst for wear of course, but still intact. The cedar shingles on the roof of the old stable had weathered over the years and seemed the thickness of parchment with only tiny stubs of thin rusty shingle nails protruding.

In 1978 when the homestead was revisited, the land had been bought up by the Ranock Community Pasture. Although the land clearing and fencing for the pasture ends about 200 feet to the south of the original farmstead and the farmstead was not developed for grazing, someone saw fit to bulldoze the buildings into one large heap of rubble. It was a heart breaking sight.

Eva, the youngest daughter in the family was born in 1910 at Shepenitz, Bukowina, Ukraine. She was eighteen months old when the family departed from the Ukraine.

Eva grew up on her parent's homestead on S.W. 1/4 36-55-11-W4th. No school was nearby and in those days teachers only came to teach in country schools during the summer. If Eva happened to be in a particular district where a school and teacher were available she attended, if not, she stayed home. After Ranock School was built, she attended for one full summer.

Eva was never spared from hard work as a youngster or throughout her life. She recalls at age 14, after attending her one summer of school at Ranock, she went threshing, pitching bundles next to men, her raw blistered hands bleeding at the end of the day, only to return the next day to repeat the agony. Talk about women's liberation! With her earnings she was able to buy herself a pair of "Sunday" dress shoes. Those shoes lasted Eva a long time because when the girls went to the local dances, they would tuck their shoes under their arms and walk barefooted. Before arriving at the dance, they would wash their dusty feet in a nearby

slough, put their shoes on, then proceed to the hall to dance the night away.

Eva recalls that it was the responsibility of the youngest member of the family to walk, or if a horse was available, to ride the 9½ miles for mail at the post office at Duvernay. She also remembers that money was scarce then and when the ammunition for hunting ran out, the children would snare rabbits and bush partridges to supplement the stew pot which was a common dish at the time. All you needed was a dog and a long slim pole with a wire snare at the end. For some reason, the bird hardly ever flew off after being treed by the dog. It seemed mesmerized by the barking of the dog at the base of the tree and if you approached slowly and deftly placed the snare around its neck, with a quick jerk it was in the bag.

As a young girl, Eva also worked for Mr. and Mrs. George Skakun (not the same family) in Two Hills doing household chores and working in Skakun's Store. This type of "light work" was a breeze for Eva.

On July 3, 1928, Eva married John and moved to their farm at Foisy.

Eva loved farming as did her husband John, but times were tough. As the young couple wrested their livelihood from the land, Eva was found next to John, picking roots and stones. The fall would again see Eva in the field stooking while Clara played or slept on blankets nearby.

Through all this Eva was able to plant her large garden, put up volumes of preserves, milk the cows and look after her family and household chores. As times progressed John could afford to hire help both for Eva and himself during the busy season.

The Depression caused a few anxious years when grain prices plummeted and they almost lost their farm. During World War II, however, demand for farm goods increased and farm incomes improved, Eva and John were able to pay off their farm. Unfortunately, it was the War that improved many farmers' lot. They could afford to take trips to Banff and Jasper, the Hawaii of today, and visit relatives in B.C.

About 1939, Eva was to suffer an illness which plagued her throughout her life. It was March and Peter Skakun, her oldest brother was at the St. Paul Hospital for an operation. Annie, Peter's wife, Eva and John wanted to visit but John did not have a car at the time. They decided to take Peter's car and on the way picked up Eva's other brother, Bill, at Lafond. While they were in St. Paul, one of those March storms blew up and the roads began drifting in. On their return trip, the car would repeatedly get stuck in the drifts and Eva, not yet knowing how to drive would get in and out to help Bill push every time they got stuck. Wearing only dress overshoes and light stockings, the repeated melting and freezing of the snow on her legs caused her to

catch cold in her legs. The full effects were not felt until two months later when Eva could not get up from the stool while milking the cows in the barn. She was helped to the house and put to bed. Her condition deteriorated. Within several hours her legs were swollen until she thought they would burst. The pain was excruciating. Eva was screaming when John and his brother Dan carried her out to the car to take her to the hospital. Inflamed rheumatism was the diagnosis. Eva suffered with her legs since and must always be careful to avoid dampness and rainy weather.

As a young couple, Eva and John took part in Ukrainian concerts at the local Foisy Hall. Eva acted or sang while John remained behind the scene as a prompter and director. In winter their troupe travelled by sleigh throughout the area to other communities to perform and raise funds for the community hall. Whenever they went on an extended trip, Eva's sister, Mary Rosychuk, who lived only a short distance west of Eva and John's would babysit with the two oldest children. They remember her coming over with her old spinning wheel on her shoulder, spinning yarn and spinning tales under the light of the coal oil lamp of their old home.

Although they worked hard then, there seemed to be time to socialize with their friends and neighbours. Many no doubt will remember the gaiety at the bazaars and dances at the old Foisy Hall. Also the fun at the box social dance where the girls would try out their culinary arts on prospective suitors. The ladies would either prepare a lunch or pie, gift wrap it with their names inside and donate it for the social. The idea was to keep the whole thing a secret and not divulge the name of the girl who brought the package to the dance. Just before the lunch break, the parcels were auctioned off. The young man who bought the parcel was to have lunch with the girl whose name was enclosed. Sometimes during the course of the evening the secret would get out as to who brought a particular parcel and if the girl had several prospective suitors, the bidding became hot and heavy.

Things gradually improved on the farm and about 1946, Eva and John built their new house fully serviced with electricity and running water. Gone were the times of the coal oil and Alladin lamps, the cleaning of lamp chimneys and replacing burnt mantles. You could bathe as often as you wanted in a long tub, forever discarding the little round galvanized tub. Eva could have a refrigerator, a mixmaster or electric stove. It was time to celebrate and celebrate they did, inviting those who helped build their house as well as neighbours and friend alike.

Eva was in her glory with her modern conveniences, she could cook to her heart's content. She must have inherited her culinary talents from her

mother and cooking was and still is a labour of love for her. It was always amazing how, at a moments notice, Eva could whip up a meal for a threshing crew of men or unexpected company. Whenever friends or family dropped in, her first question usually is "Have you eaten?" Even if you say you have or you're not hungry, Eva still goes about preparing a meal or lunch. You are always welcomed and made to feel at home at Eva's. When you leave, especially if you are a visitor from afar, Eva will usually have something to give you, either something she baked or something she made with her hands. Throughout her life she has never stopped giving.

The original one room home to which John later added a kitchen and bedroom was purchased by George Holinski. It was moved to Lafond onto the N.W. 1/4 6-57-11-4, now farmed by Sarto LaFrance. Two years later after John passed away, his son Victor and his family took over the farm and Eva moved to Two Hills. Whenever she is able she still enjoys going back to the farm to help.

Recently Eva has taken trips with members of her family. Her most enjoyable trip occurred in the Summer of 1979 when she went to the Ukraine, the country she left as a babe in arms. There she was to meet for the first time the children and grandchildren of her oldest brother Metro. She was also reunited with some of John's relatives.

She is doing things now she didn't have too much time for in the past, however time never stands still for Eva. She's "knitting up a storm" and keeps everyone busy just trying to keep sufficiently supplied with the right "kind of wool."

No doubt because of the lack of educational opportunities during their youth, John and Eva ensured that their children were given every opportunity to pursue their education. When Foisy School was destroyed by fire and before the new one was constructed, they were determined that Clara and Metro would not miss a term. That year the children attended school in St. Paul. They also knew that the children would be homesick and even during the bitter cold of winter when roads were drifted in and vehicular traffic was out of the question, John would arrive by team and sleigh every Friday, take the children home for the weekend then return the twenty three miles to St. Paul on Sunday afternoon. After the new school was constructed at Foisy — Those were the times when one teacher taught approximately forty students and eight grades, Metro returned to Foisy and Clara received higher education in Edmonton. Later when centralization took place, Metro attended school at Lafond up to grade nine, — the highest grade taught at the time and later attended high school at Two Hills. Victor, Ronald and Ivan attended Lafond School until the municipal bound-

aries changed at which time they were bused to Two Hills.

Clara the oldest and only daughter married Joseph Shemanchuk of St. Michael in September 1951. Her husband is an Entomologist and is employed by the Federal Government in Lethbridge, as a research scientist. Joseph has carried out extensive research in mosquito and black fly control in Alberta. They have two sons: Allen, and Ronald.

Allen, a pharmacist, married Carol Taylor and they have two children, daughter Julianna and son Joseph Daniel. They live in Sherwood Park. Ronald is a journeyman electrician and lives in Lethbridge.

Metro, the eldest son married Cecile Isabel of Falher in February 1959. Metro is a Technologist and is employed as a Programs and Finance Officer with the Provincial Department of Environment. Both Metro and Cecile devote a great deal of volunteer time to their community in Edmonton.

Victor married Elizabeth Achtemichuk of Myram in July 1964. Victor and Lyz live on the family farm at Foisy which they took over in 1974. Victor is continuing in his father's tradition of improving the farm operations and in being involved in community affairs with his wife. They have two sons and two daughters; Evan, Tonia, Shane and Xina.

Ronald married Elaine Whissell of Westlock in December, 1970. They have a daughter Jennifer and one son Ryan and make their home in St. Albert. Ronald is a Civil Engineer and is in partnership with his brother Ivan, in Cicon an engineering consulting firm.

Ivan, the youngest son married Dian Sava (nee Hanson) of Calgary in June 1979. Dian was widowed shortly after her marriage and has one son Richard (Ricky). Ivan and his family live in Calgary. He is also a civil Engineer and operates the Calgary branch of Cicon.

John passed away in 1972 and in 1974 after Victor took over the farm, Eva moved to her new home in Two Hills.

John, Eva and their family were always proud of their community and considered themselves very fortunate to live amongst such good neighbours.

BILL AND STEPHANIA CHRAPKO (NEE BERESKA)

Stephania was born in Lac Canard: the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Bereska. Bill was born in Duvernay: the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Chrapko. This family has now expanded to fourteen grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

We came to the Foisy District from Luzan in the winter of 1942. With everything packed in our bob sleigh, we headed north for the better land. After tipping in the deep snowdrifts several times, we finally reached our destination. The house was not much to talk about, with one room being used to



Bill and Stephania Chrapko and their family of four daughters and sons-in-law. Seated from left to right are: Bill, Lillian, June, and Stephania. Standing are: Phil and Angel Hebert, formerly from St. Vincent, now residing in St. Albert, Gaston Desaulniers, formerly from Lafond, now residing in Edmonton, George Laing from St. Paul, Roselea and Pierre Joly, formerly from St. Paul, now residing in St. Albert.

store grain by the former tenants and the other larger room was the living quarters. By dividing this room with homemade curtains for bedrooms and a bit of whitewash and alot of scrubbing, this room



This is a picture of five generations of Mrs. Mary Stelmaschuk (nee Bereska). From left to right: Mary Stelmaschuk great-great grandmother and Stephania Chrapko holding her great-grand daughter Terri Lynn Yarham. Linda Yarham and Lillian Desaulniers are standing.

became a home we were proud of. Within the next couple of years, Bill with the help of Jim Chamberland, built a new home. Here we lived till 1962 when we decided to try our hand in the big city. We are still living in Edmonton, although we do miss our neighbors and friends.

Summertime was an exciting time for us. We loved fishing trips to Floating Stone Lake and those blueberry picking expeditions, where about a dozen neighbors hopped in the back of Alex Lupul's truck at 4:00 A.M. and headed for Horseshoe Lake. We would return with pails and pails of blueberries. In winter, everyone looked forward to all those Christmas Concerts in every school. We would pack our comforters, put on our long underwear and felt boots and eagerly head off to one rural school or another. Concerts were performed by little tots sometimes only four or five years old. Right after Christmas the teachers and students started rehearsing for the yearly festival in town. This meant that mom must immediately order her fabric from the Eaton's Sales Catalogue for those brand new dresses to be made.



The four Chrapko sisters on their way to school in the cart.

This is a picture of the four Chrapko girls getting ready to make their daily trip to Champlain School, four and a half miles away. This was a one-room school for grades one to eight. In the summer, they used this two-wheeled cart and in winter a cutter pulled by this devoted horse, they called Roanie. Many mornings this horse stood and waited patiently while the girls would have to pick up their quilts, hay and lunch buckets when the cutter would tip them into those huge snowdrifts. High school was taken in Two Hills. The big yellow schoolbus would pick them up at 7:00 A.M. and drop them off at 5:00 P.M.

THE CLARK FAMILY

by Pauline Kirk

My dad, Thomas was born at Ft. Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan, in 1889, to Louis and Mary Clark. He led a very interesting, pioneering and adventurous young life right from trading with different bands of Indians, hauling mail by dog team in the north; to



Eva Labrecque, Tom Clark, Nellie Clark.

cooking for the E.C. Elles exploration expedition of the Fort McMurray Tar Sands in 1912 or 1913.

In 1909 or around there, Tom moved with his parents to Big Fish Lake district now known as Foisy. It was here that his dad filed on a homestead (which is where Bill Marsh now lives). He built a large log house which is still standing. Billy, his oldest brother, took a homestead along Big Fish Lake, near Yorks. My dad's homestead was also along the same lake; straight west of where Chesterville School was. Billy's wife later filed on a homestead ½ mile south of Chesterville School and they lived there until 1920 when they moved to B.C.

My dad married Eva Labrecque in 1916. They lived on his homestead for a little over a year and it was here sister Dorothy was born. They later bought a quarter of land bordering Saddle Lake Reserve, not far from Marsh's place. It was here Tommy, Kay and I were born. (Dorothy had passed away with the flu in 1918).

Mom never went to a hospital when any of us were born. A midwife always came in. I very well recollect before Kay was born we had Mrs. Heinz staying with us. Tommy and I were playing outside on a beautiful morning in June. When we came in the house there was Mrs. Heinz with a big white apron on, with a new born baby on her lap. She was sitting in front of the cookstove which had the oven door open. She told us she had gone outside to get some chips and had found Kay on the chip pile. I looked for some time afterwards, in hopes of finding a baby.

Before we started school, we moved to Grandpa Labrecque's old homestead. We attended Chesterville School which was two miles away. We mostly rode horseback, sometimes three on one horse, when we were small. Ronald was added to our family in 1927 and Mona in 1932. They also attended the same school.

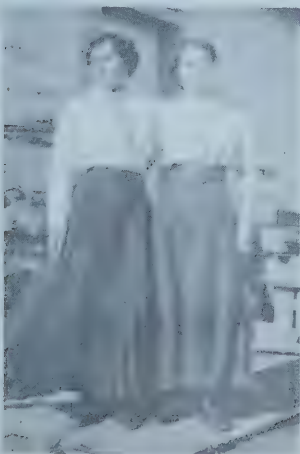
Our neighbors were Simons, who lived about half a mile away and McCulloughs, Moxhams, Hansens, Labrecques, and Chesters were all about two miles or more from us. We often walked in summer to visit one another.



Clark Family: Ronald, Tommy
Eva, Pauline, Kay, Mona.

There were no dance halls around us for some years. The dances were held in different homes. My dad would play the mouth organ and there was usually a violin. Eskow built the first dance hall. It was beside Big Fish Lake. Dad was a floor manager and square dance caller, for these hall dances. Part of an old store at Lafond was also made into a dance hall. In those days, dances lasted till five o'clock in the morning. Many times, in summer, we would get home from a dance just in time to change our clothes and bring in the milk cows, to milk them and start out on our day's work.

Mom always had a beautiful flower garden which she really prized and you could usually find her working around her flowers late in the evenings when weather permitted. About her only outing in all the years on the farm, other than to visit neighbors, was when the women organized a sewing circle. Even though we had to usually walk two miles most of the time in summer, she surely enjoyed it.



Margaret Clark, Eva Labrecque
— At Tommy Clark Homestead
(Note sod roof).

Times were hard, we picked and canned wild fruit, made our own pickles, packed butter in crocks of brine for winter and preserved eggs in waterglass for cooking purposes in the winter.

In the fall when we were in our teens, we skated on a little lake about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from home. Young folks from all around gathered here. On a Friday evening, after skating, everyone gathered at our house and would dance to the old time music on the radio from Calgary. In summer, we had a girls' and a boys' softball team. They were both called Chester-ville Team. We competed at different picnics around us. I was catcher for the girls' team.

In 1939 I married Tom Kirk. We lived in our own home on the folks' place until moving to Turner Valley District in 1943. It was here we lived most of the years and raised seven children who are still living in Longview, Black Diamond and Calgary. We now live in Fort McMurray but will be returning south to live next year, after being here six years.

My dad passed away in February, 1942 and Tommy farmed the home place. In 1943 he married Irene Desaulniers. They lived on the farm till 1950 when they moved to The Turner Valley District. Here he worked at the B.A. oil plant and Irene took over the cook house at the Mercury Refinery for a couple of years. When B.A. oil plant closed, Tommy went to work for West Coast Transmission, near Quesnel B.C., where he is now living. They have a family of seven.

Kay married Emile Robinson in 1942 and they farmed until they also moved to the Turner Valley country in 1950. Emile worked at the Purity 99 refinery until it closed down. He then moved to Gunn, Alberta, where he has worked for the welfare centre there. They have 2 sons.

Ronald also moved south to Hartell in 1944 and Mom and Mona the following year. Ron worked at the Purity 99 refinery. He married Norma Ellingsen. After the refinery closed in 1962, they went farming near Condor, Alberta. While Ron was still farming, he started working at the Hudson Bay Plant which was not too far from them. In 1978, he sold his farm and moved to High River, Alberta, where he is still working for Hudson Bay Plant. They have two sons.

Mona married Bob Trudeau. They lived in Longview for some time and later moved to Blairmore where Bob had a logging business. He sold out in 1979 and now has a janitorial business in Kelowna. They have three children.

Mother passed away in High River in 1977.

JOSEPH E CONNOR FAMILY STORY

by the family

Joseph Emanuel Connor was born in St. Paul Alta. in the year 1929, son of Mr. and Mrs. John W. Connor of St. Brides, who came here in 1927, as settlers from England. Joseph married Rose Ellen Graus of Owlseye on October 26, 1953 in the St. Brides R.C. Church. After they were married, they lived on a farm known as the Pat Lenard farm. They lived there for 3 years and then moved to another farm purchased by Jack Connor from James Deveney. Joe and Rose raised 7 children, 4 girls and 3 boys.



Pat Lenard's original home, 1927.

Joe has been in the Welding business for quite a number of years besides farming. He now has a shop on the farm at St. Brides. His business is known as Connor's Welding. Rose is a housewife and helping him out with everything he does. We have had lots of hardships along the way. We built a new home in 1970 and then built a new shop in 1978, for many different kinds of repair work as well as welding. Joe was a Welder Instructor at Kehewin Steel Industries Ltd. for 3 years. He worked for the



Joseph and Rose Connor with family 1974.

County of St. Paul for 3 years and many other places. Joe has two sons in the welding business.

Paul who lives in Edmonton has his own unit and works for different companies. Paul married Barb Labarge of Victoria B.C. and they have two children.

Philip a second son has a welding shop in partnership with his brother-in-law in Grand Centre, Alta. Philip married Velda Friske of Grand Centre and they have two children.

Russel graduated in the St. Paul Regional School and is driving a truck in St. Paul and area. He married Sharron Beaudette of Edmonton and they have two children and live in St. Brides on his father's farm.



35th Wedding Anniversary Mr. and Mrs. Theo Graus.

Joan married Ken Sauers, live in Edmonton and have two children. She works for the government as a secretary.

Patricia is married to Brian Labant of St. Brides and have one child. They live in Cork, Alta.

Darlene and Kathleen are still going to school in St. Paul.

All the children were in the 4-H Club at different times as they became of age.

JOHN W CONNOR FAMILY

by the family

I, John was born in England of Irish parents, March 25, 1895. I came to Canada April 29, 1927 and landed at Halifax from Liverpool, England. It took ten days to cross the Atlantic Ocean. There were four boys and one girl in my family. I was married to a wonderful lady, Miss Mary Davidson in 1917. We had three daughters Mary, Elizabeth and Catherine. Unfortunately she died in 1925. I married another fine lady, Miss Adelaide Bentley in February 1927. We had eleven of a family, nine are still living John, Winnifred, Joseph, Michael, Danny, Mona, Richard, Teresa and Edward.

Mary married Jim Collins and lives in Calgary. She is a teacher and has one daughter. Elizabeth deceased April 26, 1980.

Jack, a bachelor, farms in St. Brides, Alta.

Joseph married Rose Grause and farms in St. Brides and is also a welder. They have a family of seven.

Winnie married Paul Larsen and lives in Victoria, B.C. They have two children.

Mona married Bill Makowecki (deceased) and had lived in Innisfree area on a farm and raised seven children. She now resides in St. Paul.



1940 — Mr. and Mrs. John Connor.

Jack, Joe, Winnie, Mona, Teresa, Michael, and Richard.

Teresa married Vernon Devall and lives in Edmonton and has a family of five.

Micheal married Marie Berlinquette and lives in Cape Town, South Africa, manager of oil rig.

Danny married Rose Marie Worth, has gone to live in Scotland and works for an oil company. They have five children.

Richard married Shirley Makee and lives in Spruce Grove and works with oil rigs. They expect to go to Australia. They have three children.

Ed married Linda Corfield from Victoria, B.C. and lived there for a number of years. Now they farm in St. Brides and have two children.

Adelaide passed away Sept. of 1965.

In June of 1967, I went back to the old country and married Adelaide's lovely sister, Edna. We came back to Canada in 1968 and went to Victoria, B.C. to live for a couple of years. Then came back to St. Brides and lived there for a number of years. We now reside at Heritage Homes in St. Paul and enjoying good health and happiness.

CONNOLLY FAMILY

submitted by H. Wilkenson

James Henry (Jim) and Hannah Connolly, and family from Trout Creek in Northern Ontario came to Alberta in 1905 settling in the Lamont Partridge Hill District and coming to the Lafond District in 1908 where they took up a homestead near the North end of Big Fish Lake, (Lac. Sante) the present farm and home of Laurent Robinson.

Until 1920, the closest railroad and market was at Vegreville, a distance of about fifty-miles. With horses being the only method of transportation at that time, it was a three or four day trip to town and to market. Jim being a horse lover, generally had well cared for horses and in later years raised quite a few, mostly Shires.

Hannah was quite a gardener and raised chickens and milked cows for a living, selling eggs and home-made butter. Mr. and Mrs. Jim Connolly lived on the homestead at Lafond until 1924, moving to their new home on son Alec's place where



80th Birthday — John Connor. Family picture, three children missing.



Mrs. Hannah Connolly. 1926 — at her home.

they retired on the homestead south of St. Paul. Hannah passed away in 1920 and Jim in 1936, both buried in Edmonton Cemetery.

The Connolly's had a family of six all born in Ontario, the four surviving all coming to Alberta.

The Connolly's family consisted of: Emma: who married Herbert Wilkenson in 1910 and had a family of 2 boys, Herbert J. (Bert) and John R. (Jack) homesteaded south of St. Paul in 1918, living there from 1920 to 1951, when they retired in St. Paul.

Robert John (Jack) passed away in July 1955, Herbert Sr. in June 1964, and Emma in January 1971, all buried in St. Paul cemetery. Bert is retired and living in Mannville. Irene, who married Tom Bowles, 1st World War veteran in 1913 and had a family of three boys, namely: Russel now retired in Nanimo, B.C., Kenneth retired on the home place at Meadow Creek, B.C., John retired at Balfour, B.C. also at home place, Irene passed away during the flu epidemic and was buried in Foisy cemetery. Tom remarried and raised another family, passing away



Connolly in 1923, Mr. and Mrs. James (Jim) Connolly, daughter Emma (Mrs. H. Wilkenson Sr.) Mr. Connolly's sister Lena visiting from Ontario.

in 1976. Alex, a 1914-18 war vet married Annie Rymer of Illford, England, a war bride in 1922.

They too homesteaded south of St. Paul moving to Edmonton in 1927 where a daughter Muriel was born (Mrs. Gordon Winter) who now lives in Lady Smith, B.C. along with mother Annie. Alex passed away in 1967. Daniel, who married Dorothy Rymer, a sister of Annie in June, 1929. He too homesteaded south of St. Paul but did not live there after he married. They moved to Vancouver where a son David was born in 1935, who now lives in Kelowna, B.C. Dorothy passed away in 1937, Daniel remarried Martha Wircz in 1940 and they retired in Vancouver.

CHARLES EDOUARD COTE

by Charles Edouard Cote

Charles Edouard, son of Pierre Cote and Marie Louise (nee Desaulniers), was born March 30th, 1925. Our father passed away Sept. 1931.

I attended Cartier School from 1932 to 1942.

On June 25th, 1945 I was united in marriage with Therese (nee Ayotte) in Lafond St. Bernard Roman



25th Anniversary — Taken in 1973 Charles Edward Coté and wife Cecile (nee Gill).

Catholic Church. We stayed on our family farm which I had bought from my mother. Very unfortunately, Therese passed away June 20th, 1947.

In 1948, I met Cecile Robinson (nee Gill), whose husband, Maurice had passed away. After a short courtship, we were married on Oct. 20th, 1948.

Cecile's daughter Jeannine born, Feb. 8th, 1943, married Albert Boratynec, a school teacher, and they have made their home in Elk Point, Alberta. They have 2 boys and 2 girls.

Cecile had a son, Edmond born June 20th, 1944, who married Linda (nee Boles). They now live in Barrhead, Alberta. They have 2 daughters. Edmond has been working for Department of Highways since 1964.



Charles Edouard Côté and
Therese (nee Ayotte) Therese
deceased in 1947.



Charles Edouard Côté and Cecile (nee Gill) Family Picture. Top row:
Corinne, Gilbert, Germaine, Edmond, Jeannine. Front row:
Bernadette, Helene, Charles Edouard, Cecile.

We now have 4 more daughters and one more son:

Helene, born Oct. 5th, 1949, married Barry Motus. They have 2 sons, Barry is manager of Edmon-ton Totem Building Supplies. Barry and Helene are now living in St. Albert.

Gilbert, born July 26th, 1951, is married to Marguerite (nee Morant). They have 1 son and 1 daughter, and make their home in Barrhead, Alberta working for Calgary Power.

Germaine, born Aug. 2nd, 1958, married Danny Ortman. They have one daughter. They now live in Calgary, where Danny is working as a heavy equipment mechanic.

Corinne, born Jan. 3rd, 1961, graduated in 1979 and now, is working for the St. Paul Journal.

Bernadette, born March 10th, 1962, is graduating in 1981.

In 1952 we left the farm for health reasons. We made our home in St. Paul. I have worked for St. Paul and District Co-op for 28 years, two years as Meat Cutter, five years as Meat Department Manager, and the last twenty-one years as Food Manager.

MR. AND MRS. GUSTAVE COTÉ

by Florence (Brousseau) Côté

Gustave was born in Lafond, on December 22, 1934, son of Omer Côté and Alberta Viel. He lost his father when he was only 15 months old. His mother remarried when he was 3 years old, then he was raised by his stepfather, Felician Frechette.

When Gustave was growing up, much of his spare time was spent taking things apart, like old clocks, watches, old engines, then trying to put



The Gustave Côté's Family: Front row: Gustave, Edmond, Gabriel.
Middle Row: Florence, Yvonne. Back: Omer — 1977.



Florence and Gustave Coté, on their wedding day, Feb. 5, 1958.

them together again. Once, he and his very good friend, Henri Lafrance, were trying to start an old 1929 Chevrolet car, by pulling it up and down the road, but with no success. That is the way he started to learn his mechanics. Gus wasn't a 4-H member but he certainly put into practice their fine motto: "Learn by doing." He still likes to work on old cars.

He attended Cartier School, riding his big white horse, Jim. Later when his little sister, Isabelle, started school, a horse hitched to a 2-wheeled cart was their means of conveyance. He took his grades 1 to 8 at Cartier, then the school was closed and all the Cartier children were bussed to Lafond. It is here that Gus took his Grade 9.

At the age of fifteen, he stayed home to help his parents. That fall, in 1950, he had his own team and rack on Ernest and Louis-Aimé Tremblay's



Gabriel Coté and Omer with their pups, in 1975.

threshing outfit and kept up with the men. Oh! how his arms ached at night, but the next day he was at it again.

In 1954, the crop had been so poor that he, Napoleon and Ernest Tremblay, had to haul straw from the Dog Rump Creek, on the other side of St. Edward, 25 miles away. Each had a tractor and a hay rack. They bought this feed from a Mr. Christensen.

In the winter of 1955-56, there was so much snow that the fence posts were buried. Hauling feed was a real chore, for the road had to be shovelled every day. It seemed to snow and blow every night. Luckily the haul was only a mile or so long.

In November 1956, Gustave and I, Florence Brousseau, met at a wedding dance. It was only in April, 1957, that Gustave finally got up enough nerve to come visiting. This continued steadily and the inevitable happened — we were married on February 15, 1958 on a really cold day — 40 degrees below zero.

The first years of our life together were quite rough, because the price of cattle was low — 7 to 8¢ a pound, live weight and crops were only fair, with prices not very good, but we managed, with a lot of hard work.



The Coté Family in 1969: Yvonne, Omer, Gabriel and Edmond.

On February 26, 1959 our daughter, Yvonne, was born. She gave us the usual headaches that girls give their parents. She has now grown up, graduated as a legal secretary and is working for a group of lawyers in Edmonton.

Omer was born Oct. 9, 1962. He works at many things. He graduated from High School in 1980, but has not yet decided on a career.

Gabriel, born Dec. 3, 1963, is taking Grade 12 this year. He plays the violin mostly, but can handle



Yvonne Côté with her pet skunk, Omer and Gabriel app. in 1965.

several other musical instruments. He has great ambitions in the field of music.

Edmond born March 8, 1966 is now in grade 9. He likes to work with his dad on electrical projects, and also in mechanical work.

We now have a dairy farm and ship milk to the cheese factory in St. Paul.

COTÉ — FRECHETTE FAMILY

by Florence and Gustave Côté

Omer Côté was born on February 26, 1898, at Isle Verte in La Belle Province. He came to Alberta with his brother Joe, just to try their luck. In 1919, Omer bought the N.W. ¼ of 10-57-10-W of 4 from a cousin, David Charron. This land had been homesteaded by Michel Laframboise. He lived on it by himself for 8 years, until he met Alberta Viel, born June 1, 1895, also from Isle Verte, PQ. She had come out to Alberta by train to visit her brother, Joe Viel. She arrived in Mallaig on July 10, 1927. Omer, a childhood friend, found out of her coming from Mr. Larue, the young editor of the St. Paul Journal, who happened to have been on the same train with Miss

Viel. He lost no time in getting out to Mallaig with his horse and buggy. The courtship was not too long. Omer and Alberta were married in St. Vincent, November 22, 1927 by Rev. Father Charles O'Khuyzen. Of this union two children were born. Françoise, born November 17, 1929, who married Albert Lefebvre and died November 22, 1967, mother of 9 children; and Gustave, born December 22, 1934. He married Florence Brousseau and had 4 children. Françoise and Gustave were both born at home. Mrs. Michel Laframboise, a capable midwife, attended both births very efficiently. Omer and Alberta farmed during the "Hungry Thirties" when the price of farm products were unbelievably low. An 8-gallon can of cream netted \$2.75, a steer \$6.00, a market pig \$2.00 to \$3.00, eggs — 3 to 5¢ per dozen, oats — 20¢ a bushel and it cost 10¢ to have it threshed. Once a carload was shipped and the sale of the oats did not cover the freight. Omer had to make up the difference.



Mr. and Mrs. Omer Côté with daughter Françoise in 1932.

Midway through this terrible decade, Alberta had the added misfortune of losing her husband. Omer passed away on March 28, 1936, at the early age of 46, a victim of a faulty heart, for which there was no remedy, in those days.

Brother Joe, who had married a local girl, by the name of Blanche Boivin, a sister to Mrs. Ernest Noel and Mrs. Drolet of St. Paul, went back to Quebec in 1942.

Felicien Frechette, born July 9, 1901, arrived in Bonnyville with his brother Fortunat, on March 15, 1929. Each took a homestead at \$10.00 each. They



Mr. and Mrs. Felicien Frechette
on their 40th wedding
anniversary, Nov. 18, 1977.



Isabelle Frechette, Gustave Côté, Françoise Côté, Mrs. Fortunat Frechette, her daughter Bernadette, in front of Françoise, Mr. Felicien Frechette, his wife, Alberta Frechette, and Mr. Frechette's 1937 Ford car.

worked doing odd jobs for farmers to earn money to develop their homesteads.

In the fall of 1936, Felicien was again out looking for work. A friend, Delphis Vaillancourt, introduced him to Mrs. Alberta Côté, who was looking for a hired man to do the farm work, look after the stock, do chores, etc. Felicien took the job, and liked the situation so well, that on November 18, 1937 he and Alberta were married, by Rev. Father Paul Mailloux in the Lafond Church.

A baby girl was born to them on April 3, 1939, to become Mrs. Paul Brousseau of St. Vincent, Alberta, mother of 3 children.

Felicien and Alberta lived on the farm until 1958. The slough, west of the house, across the road went bone dry in 1955. Crops were poor, 3 to 5 bushels per acre. In 1958, the farm now comprising N.W. 10-57-10-West of 4 and N.E. 9-57-10-West of 4 was turned over to Gustave Côté.

Felicien and Alberta moved to an apartment in Edmonton. Both worked, Alberta babysitting and this she did until 1966. Felicien worked at odd jobs until he joined the Civil Service and worked until his retirement in 1966. In 1963, they had bought a house in Edmonton and lived in it until 1973. They then bought a house in St. Paul and have been living in it, until the date of writing, February, 1981.

ONIAS COTÉ

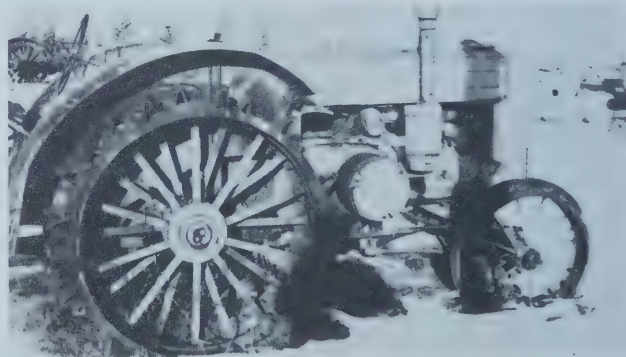
by Onias Côté

I was born June 25, 1920, and went to Cartier School, a little country school, 1 mile from home. I worked on the farm mostly all the time except in winter, neighbors and I would go and make lumber at Moose Mountain. Those days we were poor, but very happy.

In 1938, when war was declared, my oldest brother Julien enrolled. I stayed to work on the farm. In 1942, I married Alice Gill. We farmed for 3 years in Lafond, then in 1945, we bought Mr. Gill's farm in St. Paul. There we raised our two children,



Onias and Alice Côté (1979).



Rodolphe Côté first tractor Model D JOHN DEERE, 1946.



Team of well matched Pinto mares, owned by Onias Côté, 1946.



First rubber tired tractor in the Lafond area, Massey Harris Pacemaker (1938). Sold to Mrs. M.L. Côté. On tractor, Charles Gill. On binder, Onias Côté, Clement Côté ready to start stooking.

Robert and Colette. In 1968, we sold the farm and moved to town. There we did different kinds of work. In 1970, we moved to Edson, where we managed Motels. Both our children got married in Edson. Now we have 4 grand-children. In 1974, we moved to Hinton also managing motels, till two years ago. We are now both working for Yellow-head School Division.

PIERRE COTÉ

by Rodolphe Côté

Joseph Pierre Côté, born April 26, 1883, at Isle Verte in the province of Quebec. He was the son of William Côté and Annie Godbout.

His family tree goes back to France, the year 1634. The King of France chose Jehan Coste (Jean Côté) to settle an area to be called l'Isle Verte. Later his name was changed to Jean Baptiste Côté. The town of Isle Verte has a population today of 1500. The farm land is fairly productive, with a lot of dairy farms.

My father went to school and passed his early years at L'Isle Verte. After working in the lumber camps for a few years, he decided to come to Alberta.



Back, Left: Onias, Julien, Marie Louise, (mother with Pierrette on her knees) Edmond, Charles Edouard. Front row: Left, Therese, Francoise, Rodolphe in center, Clement.

Dad arrived in St. Paul in his early twenties. He went to Edmonton in 1908, to file his homestead (S.W. 28-57-10-4). When he started farming, money was scarce, so machinery was shared among neighbors. Horses were used to pull machinery and sometimes bulls were used too.

On July 24, 1917, my father married Marie-Louise Desaulniers, daughter of Thomas Desaulniers and Alphonsine Caron. From that marriage 9 children were born.



Robert Côté, father of Denis, Eugene and Madeleine.



Back, Left: Elie Lafrenière, Richard Desaulniers, Thomas Desaulniers, Alphonsine Desaulniers. Front L. to R.: Anthony Desaulniers, Pierre Côté with Julien, Marie Louise Côté, baby Onias, Jos. Desaulniers.

Julien married Lorette Gabriel
 Onias married Alice Gill (2 children)
 Edmond married Marie Frigon (2 children)
 Therese married Lucien Ayotte (5 children)
 Charles E. married Cecile Gill (7 children)
 Rodolphe married Leona Malo (3 children)
 Francoise married Herve Hurtibise (3 children)
 Clement deceased 1949
 Pierrette married Leo Perrault

During their first years of farming, they had to haul their grain, cattle, and pigs, to Vegreville, 60 miles with a wagon or sleigh.

After a few years went by, my father bought two more quarters of land. The first car that he bought in 1928, was an Oldsmobile, when I was 2½ years old. I will always remember because he took me for a ride, the same night that he had bought the car.

My father passed away in 1930. It was very hard for my mom to raise the family and to keep the farm going. She had to hire some men to work in the field.

In 1933, my mother was remarried to Robert Coté. From that marriage three children were born.

Dennis married Germaine Charron (4 children)

Eugene married Jackie Armstrong (4 children)

Madeleine married Emile Dionne (2 children)

With my older brothers to help on the farm, my stepfather decided to go to work in St. Paul at the Co-op store. He got killed in a car accident in 1938, going to work. A few years afterwards, my mother sold the farm to my brother Charles E. She moved to Lafond where she finished raising the family. Then Eugene decided to go to college and Madeleine to the convent, to complete their education. Mother moved to Maillardville, B.C. to be close to my sisters, who at that time were married and living there. My mother passed away in 1961 at the age of 63.

RODOLPHE COTÉ **SON OF PIERRE COTÉ** **AND MARIE LOUISE DESAULNIERS**

by Rodolphe Coté

I was born in St. Paul on August 14, 1926. I went to Cartier School up to grade 11. After dropping out of school in St. Paul, halfway through my grade twelve, I went to work in the lumber camps.

The first sawmill I worked in was at Slave Lake for McRea Lumber Company. The pay was .25¢ an hour for 10 hours per day. Room and board was \$1.00 per day. As you can see, the incentive was not to miss a day of work, so we would not be stuck, paying room and board for nothing.

In 1946, mother passed on to me the S.E. 29-57-10-4 quarter where we now reside. Having decided to farm, I bought a few machinery such as a seed drill, tiller and harrows. My first tractor was a 1938 Model D John Deere.

In 1949, being a very dry year, I bought a new Cockshutt 30 tractor and a new 5 ft. pull type combine with sickle and reels. The reason was that the straw was so short, it was one way to save the crop by straight combining. This dry spell lasted for 3 years, which turned out I had more custom combining than I could handle.

In the spring, I seeded my land and would go back in the sawmills till fall and come back to



Celebrating Rodolphe and Leona Coté's 25th Anniversary (1979). Couples Left to Right: Lucien and Therese Ayotte (Coté), Leo and Pierrette Perrault (Coté), Charles E. and Cecile Coté (Gill), Rodolphe and Leona Coté (Malo), Denis and Germaine Coté (Charron), Onias and Alice Coté (Gill), Eugene Coté, Harvey and Francoise Hurtibise (Coté).

combine my crop, and then I would go back in the winter. When there was no work available in the lumber camps, I would do carpenter work around St. Paul.

After working in Lac La Biche for Rozali Tie Camp and a few winters in Edson and Erith for Moon and Corser in Tie Camps also, I decided to go to work in British Columbia where the wages were fairly good. Having learned the trade of sawyer in Edson, I went to work for P. Church Sawmills in Willow River, B.C. for a few years.

After spending a few years also, in Williams Lake, B.C. as a sawyer for Chilco Sawmills and Fred Pipe Sawmills, I decided to go farming, which was my dream since I was 16 years old.

In 1954, I married Leona Malo, daughter of Oscar Malo and Julienne Jean.

Having built a house which Leona called a "shack" we settled down and started farming, milking cows and at times feeding hogs, fattening steers and also looking after a beef cow herd.

In 1962, Charles Lafrance resigned from his position as councillor for Division 4 in the County of



Massey Ferguson Tractor sold by Paul Caouette and Sons to Rodolphe Coté in 1980 — Cost: \$94,000.00.



The Rodolphe Côté Family taken on July 19, 1978. Leo Côté and Diane Lafortune's wedding day. Back row: Emile, Rodolphe, Leo (groom), Marilyn. Front row: Leslie (Jevning) holding Karen Leona, Diane (bride).

St. Paul No. 19. After a lot of thought and consultation with a few ratepayers, I decided to let my name stand for election. I won my election and have been a county councillor ever since.

In 1964, I built a new home which we really appreciated. We remodelled it in 1980.

Our first son, Leo, was born April 5, 1956. After completing his grade twelve he went to NAIT, to learn the trade of electrician. In 1978 he married Diane Lafortune.

Our second son, Emile, was born on July 12, 1958. He married Leslie Jevning in 1976. They have a daughter named Karen. They live in a house trailer in the same yard as us and help in our farming operation.

Marilyn, our only daughter, was born July first, 1965. She is presently going to the Regional School in St. Paul taking her grade 10.

We do all of our farming together. At harvest time, Leo and I operate the combines and Emile,



Rodolphe Côté combining rape with new Massey Harris combine — 1979.



First 6 cylinder John Deere Model 4010 tractor sold to Rodolphe Coté in 1962, from Letourneau farm Supplies. Rodolphe with sons Leo and Emile.

Leslie and Marilyn haul the grain. Since 1978 we have been mostly grain farming, approximately 1800 acres.

Our family hobby is hockey since the boys started playing when eight years old in St. Paul. They played in the All Star teams up to the Juniors. So the winter was well occupied. Leo went to play a few games for Regina Pats, but having trouble with his legs, he had to quit. He is still playing now for the St. Paul Pros. On February 21, 1981, Leo was chosen as one of the players to play hockey against Detroit Red Wings Oldtimers at the St. Paul Polaris Arena. In the third period, he was lucky to steal the puck away from Alex Delvecchio and score. St. Paul still lost by a score of 7 to 3 in favor of Detroit. Emile is now playing with St. Paul Rockets. Other than hockey, we like skidooing, cross-country skiing, fishing and playing cards.

FERNAND COUILLARD

written by Genny Couillard



Mr. and Mrs. Philip Couillard, Fernand Couillard, Mrs. Simone Bergeron, Solange Couillard, Jeanne Couillard, Mrs. Emma Tremblay, Ernest Tremblay, Henri and Helena Bergeron at the train to see Fernand leaving for overseas.

I was born June 10, 1920 to Philip and Marie Louise (Bouchard) Couillard. At my baptism at St. Bernard's in Lafond, Alberta, my god-parents were Mr. and Mrs. Dan Joyal. I started school at 6 and since we were too young to drive the horses, we moved to Joe Tremblay's, across the road from Cartier School. I remember my first teacher was Lucien Desjardin. In grade two I was taught by Mr. Courtemanche, and I recall sitting on his lap while he taught the group of pupils gathered around him.

For four winters I had the job to start the fires in the school. Funny, my wages never changed in all that time, I made \$7.00 for the year. At seven I was out snaring rabbits and sold the pelts to the Fox Farm for just 5¢ each.

In the spring of 1931 we moved back to the homestead and for the next five years I drove to school by buggy or by cutter in winter. Every morning we had to be up at 6 a.m. and after school we still had to get the cows and milk them. I finished school at grade 8, then I helped full time on the farm. When I was 17, my dad got the 2nd quarter. It had previously been broken, but when dad bought it, the bush had again taken over. The first year we broke 11 acres and in the next 4 years we had broken 45.



The Couillard family presently residing on the homestead taken in a stand of barley. Darlene, Glenn, Genny, and Fernand holding Joanne 1979.

On February 5, 1942, I joined the Canadian Armed Forces. After two months of basic training in Camrose, I went to Calgary for advanced training. I didn't finish my advanced training because when our commanding officer asked for volunteers I enlisted in a cooking course. On June 30 I received my Group C diploma in cooking and was sent to cook in Sarcee Camp near Calgary. A month later we moved to Vancouver to cook for the Edmonton Fusileers. The next year we were transferred to Prince George, where the Fusileers disbanded and I



Birthday picnic at Lac Sante for Fern Couillard. Left going up is Ronald Journault, Cherryl Journault, Denise Lacombe, Real Lavoie, Fernande Journault, Jules Journault, Helen and David Lavoie.

was transferred to the Oxford Rifles. In Prince George, I finally finished my advanced training, then off to Wainwright and then Nanaimo.

On January 2, 1944, I went overseas. While stationed in England I received my Group B cook certificate in September 1945. I came back to Canada in July of the following year and finally got home to visit my family. I left the service in August, 1946.

In 1947 I bought some land through the Vet's Land Act, but I couldn't get a tractor until the following year since there was a severe shortage of machines, but being on the preferred Vet list I was able to purchase one sooner than most.

In the winters of 1948 and '50 I worked in Giscome's Lumber Mill. In the summer of 1951 my parents bought a lot in St. Paul while I stayed on the farm. In 1955 I sold my hogs, had my cattle watered at Gustave Coté's and took off to Hinton to cook, but in the spring of 1956 I bought bred sows from Joseph Lafrance and started raising hogs again.

FERNAND COUILLARD AND FAMILY

written by Genny Couillard

Fernand and I, Genny Mooswa, met in May, 1957 when I was 18 years old and working for Mrs. Robert Lafrance. I'll always wonder how come Marie Lafrance hired me. When she came up to where I was living on the Saddle Lake Reserve, I was busy pitching an egg to a boy who caught it over his head and crushed the yolk and white over his hair. The guy thought I was pitching a baseball. What a mess and what a laugh. Robert and Marie Lafrance had three boys and two girls when I first came in the summer of 1956. I left and came back to work for them in the spring of 1957 when their sixth child, Collette, was born. There was a lot of work on the farm, but oh what fun I had with the family and their relatives. I never did like washing the cream

separator. Who does? Poor Marie, we used to have dough and water fights with the Lafrance haying crew.

One episode I have to mention is about Henri Lafrance. He was having lunch in the family kitchen and I took a gallon pail of Roger's Golden Syrup. I kept offering it to him making believe to pour, but lo and behold, the pail did tip and Henri Lafrance instinctively put his palms up to stop the syrup from spilling. I started laughing and emptied over half the gallon of syrup over his hands before I could stop. The silly guy got up with his dripping sticky hands to go about 12 feet away from the table to the sink to go and wash up. All this time Robert and Marie Lafrance were in their bedroom trying to sleep and couldn't with my giggling while Henri was peeved and giving me heck. The next day Henri really got a tongue lashing from his brother Robert and I got my share too. The floor was sticky, my first job was to get down on my knees and wash the floor. Food was so expensive without wasting and to this day, Henri and I still owe Robert and Marie Lafrance a gallon of syrup.

Fernand and I got together with Henri Lafrance's help. A group of boys, Gustave Coté, Ray Tremblay and Henri Bergeron decided to go fishing and Henri Lafrance asked me if I wanted to go along. I took one look at all those guys and I said no, so Robert talked me into going and only after they talked about picking up some girls at St. Vincent, who were Florence Brousseau and her sister Angeline, did I agree. Henri Bergeron spent his afternoon wading in the water unhooking my line and hooks from the lake weeds. I found Fernand so patient with me I fell hook, line and sinker for him. We went out two to three times a week during that summer and got married on August 15, 1957 at St. Bernard's Church in Lafond. Fernand always said he pushed the date ahead because he wanted a cook for harvest.

I spent the second week after my wedding, washing walls and ceilings until I got sick with stomach pains, so I went to see the doctor and he said I had pulled a muscle. Eight months later I had severe stomach pains again and this time I went to see Doctor Roland Decosse. He did an exploratory operation and had to clean out a ruptured abscess. He discharged me after a ten day hospital visit. One week later I had pains again, so back to the clinic and there I got news that made me cry. I had tuberculosis of the stomach. Fernand had to take me the next day to the Aberhart Memorial Hospital in Edmonton where I had to stay for six months. I felt as if I was in a cage again. I couldn't get out if I wanted to. It was and still is compulsory to go to a sanatorium if you have T.B. Oh what pain and loneliness to be away from my husband. My two sisters Mary and Sophie were living in Edmonton, so I saw them often when they came to visit.

Fernand was able to come every month. I'd shed buckets of tears everytime he came and worse when he had to leave to come home. We wrote reams of letters to each other. At first I was allowed to go out a few hours a month. I always chose my leaves when Fernand was coming for a visit. On our first wedding anniversary, I came home for the weekend, then I went back to the hospital for one month. Then came the happy day: I was discharged September 15, 1958. I was still on the foul tasting medication and besides, I had nightmares that I was back in the sanitarium. When I got back home, the harvest was all done but we had a very poor yield because of a dry year.

I always said I wouldn't marry a farmer but they say love is blind. I drove the tractor in the fall while Fernand operated the binder, so all we had to pay was the stookers. I don't think farmers' wives ever got very loving words if they made an error while driving a tractor. I sure didn't, I got yelled at, by my beloved husband. When it came to threshing we'd get the men from St. Paul and Saddle Lake. We would have to put them up in the house to sleep for the duration of the threshing. Very seldom were we lucky enough to thresh straight through because of the inclement weather. It really caused a hardship for the farmer, because we had to go around looking for men again when the weather cleared up. Towards the end we had school boys to thresh. These were Denis Jean, Emile Jean, Henri Bergeron, Alphonse Tremblay and my brother Gordon Youngchief. They were a happy and lively bunch to have here. I gave breakfast at 6:00 a.m., dinner at 11:00 a.m., lunch driven to the field at 3:00 p.m. and finally supper at 7:00 p.m. At breakfast the men had baked beans, bacon, eggs, porridge and fried potatoes. I really had dishpan hands during harvest because I was alone to do the dishes. After Glenn was born, I tried keeping him in the car while I drove the tractor but he cried so much that we finally managed to get one of my cousins to come to babysit.

As Glenn got older I definitely had to keep a girl here to watch him because he was too active. Once while we were cutting grain and our stookers, Clark Cardinal and his wife, were working behind us stooking, the hired girl came racing to the field at 5:00 p.m. with our half ton truck. She was emotionally upset because she had lost Glenn. We had to quit work in the field and start looking and hollering for Glenn. Finally about 7:30 p.m. when it was getting dark, I found him a quarter mile from home, in Jules Journault's field, with 30 of our feeder pigs and the dog. He was always following those hogs around. He even went swimming in the wallow with the huge sows. Once again I had lost him and I found him in the shallow slough stuck, sitting down with just his head and part of his shoulders showing.

Eventually we had a new house built, starting in July, 1962. The foundation was dug by Andre Jean. The basement was contracted to Genereux Building Supplies. The rest of the house was built with the help of the neighbors: Jules Journault, Robert Lafrance, and Gustave Coté. Fernand's brothers-in-laws: Leopold Bergeron, Ernest Tremblay and a cousin Maurice Guindon helped us straight through. We moved a few days before Christmas. We had put off purchasing a furnace until we had saved the cash to buy one, relying on the kitchen wood stove and a small oil furnace for heat. The kitchen was warm but the bedding in the bedroom was so icy that Fernand or I had to take turns to be first to warm up the sheets. We couldn't take the chill out of the house so the day before New Year's Day, we had a furnace put in.

Glenn was 5 years old when we got our first girl Darlene in July 1964. I started keeping children for Social Development in July 1964 and Fernand and I have been foster parents since. It had its ups and downs emotionally, Joanne is last in line that we've gotten and we love her like our own. I hope the Lord sees fit to leave her here as long as possible. An integral part of us would be broken if she was ever taken.

Fernand is not the type to go see doctors, so I just made an appointment without his permission, for a rupture examination on a Friday. You could see he was in pain and still he didn't want to go see the physician. On the following Sunday he was admitted to St. Theresa Hospital and operated. I had my driver's licence then, so I was able to go see him every day while he was hospitalized. Fernand had his operation in time for him to recuperate and be in shape to do his spring work. Since then, I've never made an appointment at the clinic without his knowledge.

He started swathing and baling hay for Ray Labrecque during the summer, when I finally decided to get my driver's licence. I went twice for my written test and four times for my driving before I passed. When I went for my driving, my knees were knocking together, but my reflexes were good when I was going through a yield sign, I saw an oncoming vehicle, slammed on the brakes and Maurice Fontaine, who was the examiner, just about slammed his head on the dash of our four-speed half-ton truck. Boy was he angry. I got a lecture and definitely failed, for dangerous driving, on the third tryout.

Five years ago, Fernand started working for Noel and Blanchette and tried to farm after hours, but it was too hard for him to keep up the three quarters of land, so he rented the farm. That didn't work either, so we sold two quarters and the buyers rented the home quarter too. Fernand and I can't ask for better farmers, they've always had an abundant yield from our quarter. This farmer, who is renting from us presently is Robert Lafrance. In fact

if we had kept on farming, we would've been in debt for the rest of our lives, at the price of machinery now.

The only thing that is very rough about Fernand working out is when he gets sent out to work where he doesn't come home for two days to a week. The house is like a tomb then. The girls and I get so lonesome alone. A good chance it doesn't happen too often. His bosses, Henri Noel and Art Blanchette are really nice but gosh, do they ever tease a lot.

I'll always think 1979 was the worst year of our life. Darlene, our daughter, decided to run for rodeo queen. We spent our summer driving over 7,000 miles to sell tickets so she could win. I had three grease jobs done on the car with all that mileage. She won by selling 679 books of tickets at \$4.00 a book. Lucky we never had a flat or car trouble because we were only females travelling most of the time. Fernand would come with us for moral support at nights for dances or rodeos on Sunday. I fervently hope Joanne never decides to run for queen in any category.

While going for water, Fernand stepped on a jutting plank and got a dunking in the slough. The sight of him, mad as a hornet when he waded out, emptying his boots, had me doubled over laughing, but safely out of sight behind. He was angrily mumbling in French and I don't think he was praying.

Another time he crawled quite a ways, sneaking up to shoot some ducks and without thinking I walked right up behind him just as he was ready to shoot, the ducks saw me and flew away. Boy was my beloved peeved at me after all his trouble, he didn't bag any ducks.

Fernand and I have been married 23 years and this year, 1980 I had a real compliment from him. As he wished me happy anniversary he said he wished, "We could live 22 more years." We went to Garner Lake, renting a cabin for the weekend, to celebrate our 23rd Anniversary. The cabin had no power, just a gas stove. For lights we had to use a propane lamp which we used up the same night partying until 3:30 a.m. The next night we had to make do with a coal oil lamp to play cards with Leopold and Simone Bergeron. The toilet was a privy outside and I nearly broke my neck once as I stepped out and slipped on the wet leaves. I managed to save my brittle bones from breaking by grabbing the handiest tree.

Our oldest child, Glenn is 21, works on road construction operating a buggy. Darlene is presently taking her Grade 11 at St. Paul Regional High School. Joanne, our adorable baby girl, is taking Grade 1, French Immersion at St. Paul Elementary School.

All of our three children are presently living at home here on the homestead in Lafond.

GENEVIEVE MOOSWA AT BLUE QUILLS SCHOOL

by Genny Couillard

I was born December 2, 1938 in the Saddle Lake Reserve. My father Edward Mooswa died in 1940 and my mother Emilia Cardinal died in 1942, so myself and my two sisters were raised by my grandparents. There was a feud between my maternal and paternal grandparents but Grandpa Peter Cardinal Sr. had made an agreement with my mother for our custody. I always felt sorry for Grandma Sarah Mooswa who had only the 3 of us grand daughters in the whole world and legally she couldn't keep us although she tried her best. We'd have to sneak out to visit her.

Grandpa Peter had 6 sons and 5 daughters. He had 79 grandchildren. When we moved in with him he still had four children at home. I remember bathing in the creek and doing the family wash with tubs and scrub boards near the creek. I loved my grandparents, but oh how I wished for a mother and father like other children.

As I remember we were really happy on the reserve, even though at times we only had bannock and lard with tea. One delicacy that I still crave, is boiled duck after the skin has been singed. (My children can't stand the smell, but Fernand will eat it.) The same thing with rabbit, although I'll skin the rabbit before cooking. (Fernand and Glenn always make the effort to hunt ducks and rabbits for me, although I wouldn't give them medals for being the best stalkers. How often have they come back empty handed!)

We would travel a lot in the summers. Grandpa Peter would go brushing for settlers — Beauvallon, Vegreville, Mannville, Two Hills. We would always come back to Saddle Lake for treaty days. Those treaty days were the highlight of the summer; dancing, games, rodeos and booths for treats — until everyone's five dollars was used up. After treaty, often we went blueberry picking in late August, then for us children it was back to school while our parents (grandparents) prepared for winter.

Every fall before freeze-up the natives had to replaster their log cabins. I recall walking on mud, water and straw to mix the plaster for the walls of the cabin. One couple, Sam McGilver and his wife, used to go on contract for these jobs. They must have been experts, because lots of natives hired them to do this work for them. Some white washed the inside and outside of their mud walls.

The cabins were snug and warm. I never got cold because I'd go to sleep with the stove going again. We had to chop our fire wood as we needed it since we had no machine to saw it. Grandpa would haul wood on a wagon, from the bush and stack it near the cabin.

One summer we travelled by wagon and team following the Sun Dances from Saddle Lake, Frog Lake, Onion Lake, Little Grande Lake, Big Island Lake to Legoff Reserve (The Sun Dances stopped taking place in Saddle Lake but the Pow-wows were kept up.)

As I was saying we had to go back to school in September. The people of Saddle Lake Reserve, the Catholic congregation would all congregate at the Saddle Lake Agency to have their children picked up in big cattle trucks, without a tarp to obstruct the view while travelling. The trucks, usually two, would come from Blue Quill's School to pick up the students. I went to school at Blue Quill's Indian Residential School from about 1946 until 1954. The crying and screaming of the children on being parted from their parents to go to Blue Quill's School knowing we wouldn't be back with our folks until the end of June, was a very heart-rendering scene. Eventually the school would have buses to pick us up. As the years went by we were released to go home for X-mas and finally Easter. Our folks were allowed to come and see us on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Their mode of travel was horses and wagons, not too many with rubber tires either. Later some came with cars but the grandparents never owned a vehicle while I was at school. We sure didn't see them too often. The tears and loneliness of those school years will be long remembered. I can't say I was unhappy, just lonesome a lot. On Saturdays it was really exciting to stand outside even if we were envious to see other parents come in to pick up their children for the day and go to St. Paul. It was something we always looked forward to.

Oh the horror of being in quarantine for 40 days if there was an outbreak of chicken pox, measles or mumps. Then no parent was allowed to come to the school. My Grandpa Peter Cardinal Sr. managed to come and see me while I had the measles. We were segregated in a small room to keep contamination away from other students. I don't know how he got through but I never heard of a murder that day. I was so happy to see him even if I started bawling from surprise and loneliness.

At first our vitamin in winter was cod liver oil. We'd be all sitting on long benches facing each other at tables for meals. The nun would come around with a quart pitcher of cod liver oil and we'd turn sideways, flip our head back and with our mouths trustfully open, the nun would pour our quota of vitamins straight from the pitcher. Yecch! I don't recall how often we had to stand in line to get our body plumbing flushed with castor oil, except this time the nun used a tablespoon. We had to take it whether we gagged or not.

Our clothes were rough at first. Our petticoats or slips were made out of this denim mattress ticking, with a pocket on the bottom skirt to keep our

hankees and our treasures. We had to lift our skirts to get our treasures. Now remember, we weren't being rude if we turned around and if you saw us slightly bent over, we must have been reaching for a hankie or candy.

There were about 100 girls and we all went numbered by height, the highest I ever got was number 14. The privileges were granted by the numbers. I missed out a lot when I was younger because I was short. There were less boys and we were segregated at all times during recreation. In class and at meals, we were all in one room.

In class we sat where we were placed. This is one thing I'll always have fond memories of the teachers. They were very kind and patient, but I can't say the same for our recreation keepers. They were tough as nails. Fright kept the majority from running away because of the drastic measures used if a student dared. The least was losing our crowning glory.

One thing I can thank the nuns at Blue Quill's School for is the ability to sew, cook and clean house. We were divided into groups, sent to different sections of the huge school to clean, in fact it was written on our report cards if our corners were clean or rounded. The kitchen duty was one most girls preferred to skip but we had to take our turn. After school when I had kitchen duty, I had to go help prepare supper, some had to scrub pots and pans. At times for a meal, I recall boiled fish head stew a lot. One dish I remember fixing was white fish and eggs in a milk sauce. In fact I still like it although today I use canned salmon. Where in the world did I acquire the patience to debone white fish to feed 100 people. The boys and girls were all fed on the same diet. One thing, we were all healthy and fat.

Sewing was one thing we older girls didn't really like especially on Tuesdays. Denim coveralls of all sizes from the boys, were waiting for us to be mended. They had about 25 sewing machines in the room for the girls to use. At first we used to make the clothes for the girls, eventually they got them ready made.

We students didn't get trips from our school very often. We had picnics during the summer, going in big trucks to the lake of the staff's choice. The picnic meals were very good although we had to cook over a big bon-fire sometimes. There was always a pancake fry, the girls taking each their turn at the huge pan to fry the pancakes. Sometimes we would be taken to see a religious show at the Elite Theater in St. Paul.

One trip we made was to Lafond School. The girls, I remember from that visit were Pierrette Theroux, Edith Marsh, Marjorie Marsh, Solange Jean, and the teacher I still know, Mrs. Therese Theroux. The Lafond students came for a return visit. That day the nuns sure gave us all a good lunch in honor of the Lafond visitors.

PHILIPPE AND MARIE-LOUISE COUILLARD (DESPRÉS) AND FAMILY

contributed by the Couillard children

Phillipe, son of Emma Langelier and Joseph Couillard Després was born on February 22, 1889 in L'Islet, Comte de L'Islet in the province of Quebec. As a teenager, he worked with fishermen, from Quebec City to the Island of Anticosti in the St. Lawrence. It almost cost him his life, for one day while he was loading fish from a fishing boat onto a larger vessel, the boat was moved without warning and he was thrown into the water. Twice he came up under the boat, then the third time he managed to surface and was rescued. This kind of life was not for him!



Philippe and Marie-Louise Couillard — taken in 1950.

In search of adventure and new horizons, he came West in his early twenties and took up a homestead S.E. ¼ Section 10, Township 57, Range 10 W4 on the 27th of February, 1912. Since there were no other Couillards around Lafond, he dropped the Després appellation. He spent his winters in a little log shack on his homestead, clearing the required five acres of land with an axe. He would walk to St. Paul on Therien Lake. It was on one such walk that he almost drowned for a second time in his life. There is a whirlpool in that



Mr. and Mrs. Philippe Couillard and family 1930. Back row — Simone, Marie-Louise, Philippe holding Solange, Fernand, front row — Raymond, Emma, and Jeanne.

lake and water does not freeze at that particular spot. Philippe was walking along leisurely, his dog running ahead of him when all of a sudden his dog disappeared. It had fallen into the whirlpool, slid under the ice and drowned, saving its master that fatal step into the icy water.

The six compulsory months of homestead living over, Philippe would travel to Saskatchewan where he spent his summers working for a farmer to earn more spending money. It was there that he met his future wife, Marie-Louise Bouchard.

Marie-Louise was the fourth daughter of a family of ten girls born to Christine Bérubé and Paul Bouchard at St. Felicien, Lac St. Jean on June 18, 1893. The Bouchard family had come West because Paul worked on the railroad and he was subject to many different postings.

Philippe and Marie-Louise were married in Howell, Saskatchewan on the 26th of November 1917 and they moved into a 20' x 20' house which Philippe had erected on their farm in Lafond. The young couple was fortunate that Philippe wasn't drafted into the army, for 1917 was the year conscription was imposed by the government. One day he was in the Lafond store purchasing his groceries when detectives walked in. They were looking for a Philippe Després. The storekeeper was questioned but he had not heard of any Després in the region. Philippe quietly bought his groceries and went home. He never did get drafted.

In 1918, it was possible for farmers to get a loan through "Cow Bill", so Philippe and Marie-Louise borrowed \$500.00 at 10% interest to buy five cows and two pigs: one of the pigs to be butchered, the other to be sold so that a chimney could be built. This was not to be, for one night one of the pigs was stolen and it was not until years later that a chimney replaced the stove-pipe.

Life was hard; there was very little money and few amenities but Philippe and Marie-Louise were of true pioneer stock. Water was hauled from Lower Therien Lake which adjoined the farm, until 1924 when a well was dug. The house had a wood floor, washing was done by hand on a scrub board; Marie-Louise spun her own yarn and made all the clothes, coats included, as she tended her young growing family. She knitted stockings, mitts and sweaters; made her own bread, butter and soap; cooked and baked; gardened; milked cows and fed chickens — the tasks were endless.

If tasks were endless for Marie-Louise, Philippe was equally busy feeding hogs, cattle and horses; cutting wood for the kitchen stove and Quebec heater; clearing land with an axe, pulling stumps with chains and horses, breaking land with a walking plough. Then there was disking, harrowing, seeding, harvesting and freighting. Freighting was to Vegreville and it took the best part of a week to get there and back.

The year 1920 was especially hard on the young couple as there was no feed to be bought for their livestock. However, they fared better than most, for they didn't lose any animals. These though, were a sad-looking lot in the spring. They were so underfed that they just hobbled about until green grass alleviated the situation.

In 1926, the family rented the Joseph Tremblay farm across from Cartier School so that Simone and Fernand could start school. We had originally rented for three years but we stayed an extra year returning to our own farm in 1930.

By then the country was in the throes of depression which had started in 1929 and was to prove to be the most severe and widespread economic decline of the first half of the 20th century. These were trying years: eight gallons of cream sold for \$2.50; eggs were 5¢ a dozen. In 1929, dad paid 5¢ per bushel for threshing and sold oats at 6¢ a bushel; wheat 25¢ a bushel. A full sleigh load brought in a measly \$11.00. We were blessed in that we had our own supply of meat and vegetables from the farm. This we supplemented with wild berries, hazel nuts, prairie chickens, partridges and rabbits. Prairie chickens were trapped whereas rabbits and partridges were snared. The latter were caught with a snare affixed to the end of a long pole. It was a great day when we finally purchased a gun.

The one deplorable fact was that we could not salvage our extra garden vegetables for winter use because we did not know how to can at that time. There were many explosions in the Couillard cellar when bottled peas fermented and then blew up all over the place. What a mess! But we did learn how to can when a Home Economist was provided to instruct housewives.

True, life in the 30's was hard but it was also a happy time. Life centered on a home, a home in

which we shared work, play and prayer. It seems that there was always plenty of time for all three, thanks to our parents insistence on punctuality in all things.



Philippe Couillard working as a hired hand in Saskatchewan prior to World War I.

The highlight of our life was the Christmas Season. It started with Midnight Mass which was attended without fail. We especially remember one Christmas Eve setting out for church in a raging snowstorm. We had a lantern attached to the front of our sleigh but it was no help. We were four miles away from church and to shorten our trip we crossed a lake, in winter. That particular night we got lost on the lake — round and round we went! We don't know how many times we circled that lake; it sure seemed long but we finally made it and on time too. We must have left home at nine o'clock!

Mass was followed with a quiet "reveillon", consisting of traditional French Canadian dishes, at home with the family. Even though Christmas brought no presents, it was a very happy occasion. Mom put up a scrumptious meal which we shared with our only relatives, the Guindons. They returned the favor on New Year's Day.

As with all other families, living conditions improved with the advent of World War II but the 1940's brought a drastic change to our family life. Five of us left home in the early forties: Simone and Emma were married, Fernand was drafted into the army, Jeanne and Solange went to board at the convent of the Sisters of the Assumption to continue their studies at the St. Paul High School. That left only Raymond at home with mom and dad and this was only occasionally.

In the early fifties, mom and dad moved to St. Paul. Dad passed away on July 11, 1953, and mom outlived him until January 23, 1979. Both are buried in the Lafond cemetery.

At this point let me qualify the "we" in the foregoing paragraphs:

Simone, born October 29, 1918, married Leopold Bergeron on July 15, 1940. They have nine children — see Leopold Bergeron Family in this book.

Fernand, born June 10, 1920, married Genevieve Moosewah on August 15, 1957. They have three children — see Fernand Couillard Family in this book.

Emma born May 29, 1924, married Ernest Tremblay on November 23, 1943. They have eighteen children — see Tremblay Family in this book.

Raymond, born April 24, 1926 (deceased October of 1973) married Cornellia Leroux on November 8, 1958. They had seven children: Mae, Claude, Clarence, Louise, Paul, Pierre and Cecile.

Jeanne, born February 18, 1928, married Euclide Lepine on July 9, 1951. They have four children: Diane, Guy, Marie and Louise.

Solange, born March 18, 1930, married Marvin Bader on November 30, 1957. They have two children: Deborah and Wesley.

PIERRE COUTURE

Born: September 16, 1876

Upton, Quebec

ELIZABETH JEAN

Born: April 8, 1877

Lac St. Jean Quebec

Married in Ludlow, Massachusetts, U.S.A.

February 17, 1901

by John Couture

In 1912, Pierre and Elizabeth and their young family moved from Ludlow, Massachusetts to Ensign in southern Alberta.

In 1932, my family and I moved from Ensign to St. Paul. My brother, Omer and I made the move in 2 wagons bringing with us 10 horses. The trip took us 7 days. The rest of my family, which included my father Pierre, my mother, Elizabeth (known as Elise) and six other children, Richard, Alberta (known as Bertha), Yvonne, Henry, Anita and Roger moved here by train, bringing with them the rest of the farm equipment, horses and cattle.

The reason we decided to move up north was that the weather down south had been very dry for many years and we had suffered many crop failures. We hoped to have better luck in this area. My father had lost both his legs from below the knees down and all his fingers in an accident. In spite of this, he was extremely able to work, driving eight horses as if nothing had happened.

We rented some land in St. Edouard and farmed it for 2 years. We then purchased a ½ section of land in Lafond which used to belong to the Frasers. In those days, most of the work was done by horses and horse-drawn equipment. We did not know what tractor farming was like. In 1934, my mother passed away while we lived in Lafond and she was buried there. Father Boucher was the parish priest who performed the burial ceremony. We farmed our land for some 4½ years.

In 1936, my father moved to Lac La Biche with the rest of the family. My dad moved in the same manner that we had moved from Ensign to St. Paul with teams of horses. The whole trip took him 2



Front: Mr. and Mrs. John and Angelina (Van Brabant) Couture. Standing L-R: Al and Denise (Couture) Couturier, Roland and Louise (Couture) Rocque, Alcide and Lucie (Couture) Jean, Charles and Clair (Couture) Smith, Rene and Bonnie (Heyland) Couture, Julien and Elsie (Couture) Boucher, Victor and Janine (Boutin) Couture.

days. When the family got to Lac La Biche, they took a homestead. Luckily, the previous owner had a shack there which gave them a place to live while brushing and preparing the land for farming. My father passed away after having lived in Lac La Biche for only 4 years.

I did not move with my father as I had married Angelina Van Brabant from St. Paul in 1934. I stayed on the farm at Lafond for another 2 years. It was there that our first child was born.

We left the farm due to poor farming conditions and moved to St. Paul. I was employed by a farm machinery dealer and oil agent for some 5 years. Then I moved to Edmonton with my wife and 4 children. We have lived there ever since while employed as a mechanic for 45 years. We have raised a family of 7 children.



Mr. and Mrs. John and Angelina (Van Brabant) Couture. Taken in the mid 30's.



Mr. and Mrs. Pierre and Elise (Jean) Couture. Taken in the early 30's.

Jules — deceased age 2.

Denise Courturier, Sherwood Park — 5 children, Bernard and Cathy Cadieux, Edmonton; Rev. Leonard Cadieux, Saskatoon; Laurier Cadieux, Regina; Marie Claire and William Monaghan, Edmonton; Jean Rene Couturier at home.

Louise and Roland Rocque, St. Paul — 8 children, Lea and Lorne Buryn and Leanne, St. Paul; Rhea and Gerald Looy, St. Paul; Victor Rocque, St. Paul; Jules Rocque, Edmonton; Joanne, David, Roland Jr., and Marcel Rocque at home.

Lucie and Alcide Jean, Edmonton — 4 children, Leo Jean, Edmonton; Carmen and Orest Petruk, Edmonton; Doris and Hector at home.

Elise and Julien Boucher, Edmonton — 4 children, Colette, Louise, Paul and Juliette at home.

Victor and Janine Couture, Quebec City — 2 children, Jeff and Melanie at home.

Claire and Charles Smith, Red Deer — 2 children, Christina and Catherine at home.

Jean Rene and Bonnie Couture, Hinton — 2 children, Ryan and Shannon at home.

My wife and I are now retired but still enjoying a good life.

JOHN DASCHUK

by Russell Paziuk



John Daschuk.

Interview with present day residents of the Lac Bellevue community indicate John Daschuk emigrated from Russia and spoke the Russian language fluently. As well, he is remembered as being well versed in the Ukrainian language. We are told that he was a very talkative and lively individual who was regarded quite highly by his neighbourhood. His frequent fishing and hunting experiences also indicate that he was a great sportsman.

John Daschuk and his wife Nancy homesteaded in the Lac Bellevue district on quarter section N.E. 20-56-9-4 from June, 1927 to mid thirties when the family moved to Ontario.

We are told that he operated a shoe shop in St. Paul for one year.

Records indicate that the Daschuk's had one son Tony who attended Lac Canard School and that later they had a daughter.



Lac Bellevue residents on way back from Ryan sawmill with lumber 1931. L-R: Steve Zuk, John Zacharuk, John Daschuk, unknown.

DAVIDSON, GEORGE R.

by George Davidson

George R. Davidson, born in Scotland on May 12, 1923, in a village called Tarland in the Province of Aberdeenshire. I was the eighth member of a family of nine, who emigrated to Canada on June of 1926. The ship was the Montclair and it docked at Quebec on June 6th. From there, we took the train for a five day trip to Edmonton. The family settled on a ½ section, 1½ miles north of the Alberta Game Farm (E½ 4-52-22-W4).

My father Frank R. Davidson farmed there until his death in June of 1963.

My mother, formerly Mary King, gave birth to three more sons in Canada.

My mother still lives on the home place at the age of 87 years. With twelve of a family and a half section that needed a lot of clearing, there was no shortage of work. When the depression years came, the work was still plentiful, but the cash flow was very light.

During our growing years, we walked 3 miles to school and took care of school water, heating and cleaning for some 5 years. At age 9, I had to leave ahead of time to fire up the box heater with wood, and carry water half a mile for drinking. The coldest morning I arrived and started the heater, frost appeared all over it at first, then steamed itself dry and then heat! I looked at the thermometer on the teacher's desk and it was 50° below zero. That's as far as the numbers read on the thing! I didn't need too much water that day! I believe there were only 10 of us present.

For winter sports, my brother and I built our own bobsleds and cut our own skis out of frozen birch logs and hewed them to the last "fine" detail with the axe! We even skied cross-country, downhill, and behind the neighbor's 1928 Essex car at 40 mph. The birch held up for several winters.

One of the biggest highlights of our lives was a trip to town with the team and wagon, some 30 miles to see the exhibition in Edmonton in the summer of 1932. It was our first glimpse of the city for most of us. We left at 8:00 a.m. and returned home about 9:00 p.m. with all the chores and milking to be done after that.

Our first truck was a Model T Ford 1 ton factory made with a wooden cab and no doors. It proved to be a disaster! That was about 1930. The next was a 1926 Chevrolet Touring car. It served the need of getting groceries and repairs in a hurry. Later it was remodelled by my father into a truck. It made many trips to town with three pigs at a time to Gainers Ltd.

In 1932, my oldest brother arrived home from working out, with a 1929 Model A Ford. It too got the axe, and was manufactured into a truck. It made many more trips with 4 pigs at a time. In 1935 my Dad bought our first big truck, a 1932 — 2 ton Maple

Leaf — GMC product. At last we had something we could all ride in and we took in many a plowing match in the Ellerslie District. That was our mid-summer highlight!



Family snap taken in June 1976 — The Davidson Clan 50 years in Canada. Back row: Donna, Lesley, Glen. Front row: Carol, George and Linda, also the family dog.

In 1932 we bought our first tractor, a 12-24 Hart Parr and 21" Twin City thresher! Later it was traded for an 18-36 Hart Parr and 28" Case thresher. That was replaced in 1939 by a 15-30 McCormick Deering tractor (IHC); and a six foot John Deere Clipper Combine took the place of the thresher in 1942. Late in 1946 the old steel wheel tractor was replaced by the more modern rubber tired W 6 McCormick tractor and is still being used on the home place today!

At the age of 18 the Second World War was in its third year and not going too well for the free world, so I joined the army and spent the next three years in England, North Africa, and Italy. I was wounded twice and on the second occasion, I was shipped home disabled and in time for the war to end in Europe and the Far East in July 1945.

After regaining my health, I purchased the N.W. ¼ 1-53-23-W4, in the Clover Bar district in January 1948. This was through the Soldier Settlement and Veterans Land Act.

I farmed the quarter and worked at extra jobs, for Stein Structures Ltd., The Viking Co-op Store and the first five highway scales were set up by my crew, also Rimbey and Two Hills wooden water towers in 1950 and 51. I was also in the team that blew up the first "Groat Bridge" in 1955, that went bad at the time of high water on the river through Edmonton, plus 23½ years with Century Sales and Service.

I met Caroline Riegler in Coutts, Alberta, while on a scale job there in 1951. Caroline was also an emigrant at the age of 10 months from southern Austria in March 1928. Her folks, Samuel Riegler and Elizabeth "Koch" Riegler settled south-east of Lethbridge where Caroline grew up and got her

education in Coaldale. We were married in Lethbridge on June 28, 1952. We had a short honeymoon in Waterton Lakes, then back to the farm in Clover Bar. We have four children: Linda, Glen, Donna, and Lesley.

Linda was born July 30, 1953 and received her education in Ardrossan and in Sherwood Park then graduated as a nurse in the Class of 1975 from the Royal Alexandra Hospital School of Nursing. She married Dave Hubbard of Blaine Lake, Saskatchewan in April 1975 and they reside in Lethbridge with a baby daughter born October 17, 1980. Kimberley is our first grandchild.

Glen was born on January 30, 1955 and he finished his grade 12 in Sherwood Park. Glen is now a member of the City of Edmonton Fire Department.

Donna was born on March 2, 1959 and also educated in Sherwood Park. At present she is working for C.B.C. in data processing and is currently studying for an accounting degree.

Les, our youngest son, born on February 18, 1961, graduated from school in 1979. He is at present in a joint venture with Pierre Brault at Lafond, Alberta. They have six quarters of land and have completed their second year of operation. The land location is S.E. ¼ 25-56-11-W4; S.W. ¼ 25-56-11-W4; N.W. ¼ 25-56-11-W4; N.E. ¼ 25-56-11-W4; S.E. ¼ 36-56-11-W4; and S.W. ¼ 36-56-11-W4.

My wife and I purchased land north of Lafond, from Robert Lamoureux. The farm then was recognized by the name of "The Enchanted Owl". It had a huge owl created out of a large piece of sheet metal, which I believe was sculptured by Robert Lamoureux himself. It was a masterpiece as I recall, beautifully painted and finished to the last detail. The land location is as follows: N.E. ¼ 19-57-10-W4; S.W. ¼ 19-57-10-W4; and S.W. ¼ 20-57-10-W4. We have rented these for the past eight years to Joseph Muchka. Now, son Les and Pierre Brault will look after it until we, Caroline and I, George, will endeavor to move on to the property in the near future.

LEONARD AND HEATHER DEMCHUK

by Leonard Demchuk

Leonard graduated from F.G. Miller High School in 1968, went on to N.A.I.T. and graduated from telecommunications technology in 1970. Upon leaving N.A.I.T., he began working with A.G.T. in the equipment installation department based in Edmonton.

Heather Lindquist, oldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Lindquist now of Edmonton, graduated from Lethbridge Collegiate Institute in 1968, moved to Edmonton and began working for M.S.I., then transferred to Alberta Health Care in July 1969

when the government took control of Health Care Plans.

We met through a friend, Jane Kennedy, (now Mrs. Ken Demchuk) in September of 1970 and were married April 29, 1972 in Elk Point.

Tiring of apartment living, we bought our first "Real" home in December 1972. It was a 3 bedroom mobile home situated on a lot in the trailer court in Spruce Grove. During this time Len continued working for A.G.T. "on the road" in Edson, Hinton and Jasper and Heather worked as a credit and collections clerk for the rival company, Edmonton Telephones.

A year and a half later, June 1974, thinking that we had saved enough money to farm, we moved our trailer to Len's parents farm (Mike and Annie Demchuk) where we lived for two years. Len transferred to St. Paul with A.G.T. and Heather worked for Paul Stepa for a year in Elk Point.

In October 1975, we sold our trailer and moved to the "old Johnny and Irene Rawluk" farm. The house hadn't been lived in for a few years but after some minor renovations, we found it quite comfortable. The house had power, a wood stove converted to heating oil, and running water when the roof leaked. A mouse problem soon became evident and the cats were brought in to solve the problem. One morning we awoke to find a gift from the cats lying on the rug next to the bed — it was a mouse, killed and carefully laid as an offering of friendship.

The following July found us, our families and friends working on the construction of a new house. After much hard work and long hours in the rain, sleet and snow, we moved into the not quite finished house in February 1978 and are still working to complete the house.

We have made a few changes to the original homestead. The old house and the log granary are gone. We have added two corrals, a coat of paint and a sign bearing the name "Coyote Creek Ranch" to the barn. The pig house is now a granary and a turkey house.

In June 1978, Catherine Lee Margaret joined our family fast becoming and continuing to be the sunshine in our lives.

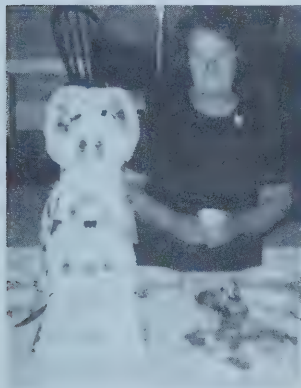
Len is still working for A.G.T. in St. Paul and farming at "Coyote Creek Ranch". He is president of the Stoney Lake Stampede Association and we are all members of the Stoney Lake Community Hall. Heather and Cathy are involved with parent nursery and curling in Elk Point and with chickens, ducks and turkeys at home.

DEMCHUK STORY

by Mike Demchuk

My father, Michael Demchuk was born in the year 1867 in Klekoti, Brody, Austria. My mother, Ksenka Sokhosky, was also born in Klekoti in the

year 1870. They had a family of seven sons, two of which died at a very early age. Bill was born in 1893, remained in Austria and died there a few years ago. John, born in 1896 and living in Myrnam. Steve was born in 1899 and now lives in Elk Point where Pete, who was born in 1905, also lives. Matthew, named Mike by my first teacher and known by that name since was born July 6, 1911. The first Pete, born 1902 and Matthew 1908 died as babies.



Annie Demchuk with my 46th cake for Kenneth and Jane Demchuk.

Seeing that there were five of us in the family, seven including parents, there was barely enough food to go around. I, being the youngest, got cheated out of my share quite often and became weak and anemic. Food also had to be shared with the priest and one day mother mentioned my condition to him. He told her that God wanted me with Him so she should make me a new shirt to be buried in. Mother made the shirt and the priest blessed me but the move to Canada and plenty of food on the ship helped me to survive. The rest of the family became very seasick during the ocean part of the voyage so I ate their share of food as well as my own.

In 1913, due to rumors of war, my parents decided to leave their families in Austria and come to Canada. By the spring of 1914 some land was sold and some land along with the house and blacksmith shop were left for Bill. Brother Bill, who was a blacksmith, with John's help made two large trunks to pack our clothes, bedding, dishes and other personal effects for the trip to Canada. It was a time of great excitement. There were people coming and talking, laughing and crying, but the saddest part was leaving my brother Bill behind, who was old enough to be drafted into the army.

One sunny morning a team and wagon drove up to the house, our personal effects were loaded on and we were off to the train where we said our last goodbye to Bill. The train ride was long and tiresome. Then came health inspection where members of some families were not allowed to go. Some families turned back and some could not because they had nothing to go back to. We boarded a ship called "Palanza" in the port of Hamburg, Germany.

Our ship was headed to the port of Quebec. It was a long journey. We sailed through a storm and everyone became so seasick they wished to die. We had to wear life jackets and everything that wasn't tied down would slide back and forth on the ship including an odd sailor. After a few days we hit fog and it seemed that we were standing still. They used the fog horn to let it be known that we were there. After about twenty days, it was announced that there were birds around the ship so land was near. We saw large fish shoot out of the water and fall back with a thunderous splash. It seemed that the fish were about fifteen feet long. Then there was the welcome sight of a city on the horizon. This was the port of Quebec. There we got on the train, which was a pleasant change. The people were not seasick any more and didn't have to worry about drowning. That soon got monotonous, too. My brother Pete and I would get off the train as soon as it would stop. We would run around till the train whistle sounded, then we'd scramble back on again. One time, I think it was in Toronto, as we scrambled off the train it started off again and went on to the water tank for water. It was quite an experience for a nine year old and a three year old who could not speak English. We started opening doors and calling for mama. We opened one door and there was a lady in a light blue dress with blond hair and a very surprised look on her face. She called the police and they got us back on the train. The next time the train stopped we stayed on! The train ride through Ontario was boring. There was nothing to see but a few fruit orchards, hills and rocks and we wondered how we were going to make a living in such a country. As we travelled farther west the land changed and became more open. Occasionally we saw a farm or two between small towns. I got restless again so I would try walking in a moving train, bumping against seats and walls. Then I bumped against a car door and it opened. I saw the ground and the trees rush by and the cold wind blew in my face, but somebody must have grabbed me because I didn't fall out. Finally we arrived in Innisfree, Alberta. Here we and our baggage were unloaded as Innisfree was our destination. An arrangement was made with Mr. and Mrs. Babych and family that we would stay with them till dad, John and Steve could find and file on their home steads. After the train pulled out, we were left, sitting on our trunks wondering if Mr. Babych was coming or if they had changed their minds about us staying with them. About an hour later Mr. Babych drove in with a team of horses and a wagon. We loaded the wagon with our possessions and the six of us moved in to live with the Babych family. This was about the middle of June, 1914. The Babych house was a typical Ukrainian house with a large room on the right and a smaller room on the left with a narrow storage space between the two

rooms. There were six of us and we lived in the smaller room and there were six or more of the Babych family living in the larger room. We lived with them for about ten months. The summer of 1914 was spent looking for land which was found north east of the Innisfree area, north of the North Saskatchewan River, in the Lake Eliza area. It's now called the Stoney Lake area, twenty-two miles south-east of St. Paul or seventeen miles south west of Elk Point. Dad filed on S.E.¼ of section 33, township 55, range 8, west of the 4th meridian, in Innisfree on August 25, 1914 at 2:00 p.m. and his interim receipt was stamped August 26, 1914 in Edmonton . . . real mail service, eh? John Demchuk filed on S.W.¼ Sec. 34, Twp. 55, Rge. 8. Steve Demchuk filed on S.E.¼ Sec. 34, Twp. 55, Rge. 8., at the same time. Since it was not possible to build a house and a barn for the stock it was decided to stay with the Babych's till the first of March. By then the weather would be warmer and the north bank on the Saskatchewan River would get icy due to the melting snow and so would Ashworth's Landing where we would be getting off the river. It was a long winter for us and the family we stayed with as we were all waiting for the weather to warm up so we could start out for our own homestead. One Sunday when the folks went to church, Pete and one of the Babych boys decided that if they started big fires in all the stoves the heat from the chimneys would warm the air outside and we would start for the homestead sooner. When the folks came back from church they couldn't figure out why it was so hot in the whole house. Finally a hay rack was built on the sleigh, the cook stove, which took four men to load, was loaded. There was also hay, seed, two large trunks, clothes, bedding, tools, etc. At 4:00 a.m. on March 1st, 1915 we said our goodbyes to the Babych family who put up with us for over ten months. We started out with a team of oxen pulling the load going to the homestead at Lake Eliza. We went steadily on, only stopping to feed the oxen and to have some bread and tea ourselves. We stopped at a store which was about 2½ miles south of the North Saskatchewan River. I tasted my first orange and got sick! We were quite worried travelling on a narrow road which was built along a valley. In one spot the road was built about 100 feet below the top of the hill and maybe 200 feet above the valley, but it wasn't icy so we were safe. Soon we drove to the Myrnam ferry landing and on to the North Saskatchewan River which was nice travelling. We were hoping that the land by Ashworth's was not covered by ice from the melting snow on the north bank. A landing is a cut in the river bank starting at the waterline out of the river and going up to the top of the bank, wide enough for a team of horses or oxen to pass or meet. Our hopes that the landing at Ashworth's was all right were wasted because it was all ice. The oxen couldn't stand up

even on the level part before the landing. We tried chopping the ice to make it rough but that didn't help. The boys went to Ashworth's to ask for help but all we got was their hired man, Mr. Philipowich. Dad, John, Steve and Mr. Philipowich unloaded everything except the stove off the rack. With more ice chopping, men pushing and lots of hollering, the oxen finally got the rack up the river landing and we were on the north side of the river, three miles from our destination. Now the men had to carry all the stuff that was unloaded up the bank and load it on the rack again. With many thanks to Mr. Philipowich we arrived at Mr. Sydorchuk's place about 8 o'clock in the morning. It took about fifteen hours to make it up the landing and the three miles to Mr. Sydorchuk's place. The sun was just coming up. There was a bunch of cows with long, sharp horns. Those are the first cows I remember seeing. Mr. Sydorchuk had a spare building that we stayed in and our homestead was only half a mile north. Mr. and Mrs. Sydorchuk had two boys, William and Fred. William became my best friend and he still is. Bill and Fred took me out east of their place on a hill facing a muskeg. I could not believe how big the country was. There had been a fire through that area maybe ten years before because the trees and willows were small and you could see in all directions. There I heard the "Beep, Beep" of a woodpecker, the first bird I heard in Canada, and I'll never forget it. So it went on to building the house, barn and chicken coop. Machinery was bought and brought home, hay cut for the oxen and a cow, and some land to be broke. Dad bought his machinery, a wagon and a box, sleigh, hay mower, hay rake, walking plow, 6 foot disc and three harrows, in Vermilion, I think. It took three days to make one trip with horses and more with oxen.

Now to the building of the house. There were logs all over and it was a matter of cutting and dragging them to the building site with the oxen, peeling the bark off and fitting them on the building. After the house was built and ready for the roof, Dad hooked the oxen to the plow and plowed some furrows on a grassy spot. The furrows were cut 18 inches long, loaded on the wagon and hauled to the house to be put on the roof starting at the bottom and covering to the top on both sides. Then came the mudding of the walls and ceiling. The men dug the cellar in the house and found that there was clay so they took the top dirt off, dug up some clay, poured in some water, got the two oxen in the cellar and kept them walking around in this mud until one of the oxen decided he didn't like the job. He jumped on the edge of the cellar and getting his head through the window, almost knocked the house down, but luckily he slipped back down. After that we got posted by each window with a willow to give them a good switching if they tried it again, of course dad was watching the door armed

with more than a willow switch. After the clay was free of dry spots, hay and water were added and mixed some more. When all the hay was covered with mud, the oxen were taken out and men with forks, carried it to where the house was to be mudded. It was found that the longer the hay was mixed into the mud the harder it was to take it out of the pit. Straw is usually used but we had no straw yet. We mudded our house from the inside only and left the outside for next year. The ceiling was made of squared log beams with rails laid over them and mudded from the inside. In some places as much as five inches of mud was used to cover the crooked rails. The floors in both rooms were also made of wood rails and mudded over. We moved into the house as soon as the mud was dry enough so we could live in it.



Annie and Mike Demchuk
wedding July 2, 1934.

The barn was also built and mudded, with wood rails on the top and some hay laid over that to keep the snow out during the winter. The chicken coop had a sod roof put on it too and about two acres of land was plowed. When mother saw that two acre patch of land she said we were as rich as some of the rich people in the old country. They also plowed some land on John's quarter that year. We ate lots of meat such as rabbit, partridge and prairie chicken.

The first tragedy occurred at our neighbors when the father came home from hunting, left his shotgun in the house but forgot to remove the shell from it. While he was out doing chores the older boy picked up the gun, aimed it at his brother, pulled the trigger and it fired. That was the first funeral that I remember and I lost a friend of my own age.

With the buildings about done John and Steve had to go to work again. John who had learned blacksmithing from brother Bill in the Ukraine, was very anxious to earn enough money to buy his blacksmith tools and become a blacksmith. They both went back south of the river to work for some people they had met while we were staying with the Babych family.

The winter of 1915-1916 was cold but not unusual. Come spring the greatest concern was preparing the few acres of land we had for seeding. Next was preparing to break all the land we could. Another worry was the bush fires. In 1916 a fire appeared south-west of our place and heading towards our buildings. When it was about three quarters of a mile away the roar was frightening and we could feel the vibration of the ground, so we left the buildings. With some water and the clothes on our backs we sat on a hill that had very little grass on it but the wind blowing from the south changed to the south-east and blew the fire away from our spruce grove. That saved our buildings. It was decided that any plowing would be around the yard first so in case of another fire we would have fire guards surrounding the buildings.

Dad not only broke land at home but he went with his two oxen and a walking plow and broke for others to make some money. One hot day while breaking, he lay down to rest in the shade under his wagon and caught a bad cold that he could not get rid of.

Mother had one great desire to go to Mundare for the 12th of July where there would be church services like they used to have in the Ukraine. She had the house whitewashed and everything was spic and span for the holiday of St. Peter. A day before the start of the trip to Mundare Pete was sent out on the open range to get the horses that dad bought after he sold his oxen. Pete spent half a day and couldn't find them so he came home. After he had had his dinner, Mother, Pete and I went out. After walking the whole section of C.P.R. land we decided to go $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile west. We got there and stopped to listen. We heard the clang of the bell one of the horses had on. They were in a hollow with willows around so thick we had a hard time to get out of there. Mother told us she heard that animals hide before storms. Towards evening the wind died down and it became cloudy, later it started to rain lightly, by 9 o'clock there were rain spots on Mothers nicely whitewashed ceiling. Soon after the mud started falling off the ceiling. Imagine a square yard of wet mud five inches thick falling eight feet down. Imagine the noise it makes and imagine it falling on your head. So tired, scared, cold and sleepy we didn't dare close our eyes for a second. By morning the wind from the north west was blowing at about 60 miles an hour, driving sheets of rain against the house that wasn't mudded from the outside. The rain soaked the logs and the mud inside the house. By about 10 o'clock in the morning the mud on the north wall broke in two and crashed down on the floor almost catching Dad who was trying to plug small holes in the wall to keep the wind from blowing rain on us, as everything we had was piled against the south and east walls. The strong north west wind blew the rain over the south

side of the roof. When the storm finally ended, in about 24 hours, the big room had no mud on the north wall and the north half of the ceiling. The kitchen had no mud on the west and the north walls and half the ceiling. The cook stove had about six inches of mud on it, so did the table and benches. The stove was filled with water and we had to drain it from under the oven. All we ate was bread and drank water. We finally got the fire going about thirty-six hours after the storm started. Dad who had a cold since spring, got soaked and couldn't dry his clothes till we got the fire going so his cold got worse. My brother Steve got so fed up with things at home that he decided to ride over to visit Matt Chapelsky and warm up. When he opened the door at Chapelsky's, Matt started to fall out but Steve grabbed him and held him up. Matt had been standing in the doorway because that was the only place it wasn't dripping water through his roof so Steve came back home in a hurry. Oh yes, we didn't go to the Mundare celebration on St. Peter's day. As soon as we dried up and had something warm to eat, Dad and Mother were busy putting the mud back on the walls and the ceiling.

That was the worst storm in my memory. I have talked to most of the people around and they all had the same problem with their sod roofs. Those that had no mudded ceiling and had oil cloth for their tables, spent 36 hours under their tables where it was dry. After the storm Dad wasn't well at all. Dad and the boys cut some logs and had them sawed into lumber at Oscar Johnson's sawmill. He built a little storage building which was used for many things.

The wheat dad seeded on those few acres of breaking froze so badly the stock would not eat the straw. Dad went to Ashworth's to help thresh that fall. He was hauling grain from the machine. The wheat was threshed into sacks on the wagon, hauled to the granary, carried up a ramp and dumped into the granary. He would warm up carrying those sacks to the granary and would cool off waiting for another load. He got so bad after that, he went to bed and stayed there till March, 1917 when we lost him.

Mr. and Mrs. John Sadowinski, came and helped to wash and dress him. Mr. Sydorchuk and Mr. Tom Pidlubny got the lumber and made the casket. They covered it with black satin and drove furniture nails into it in the form of a cross. We hauled the casket in our wagon. It was spring, the low places were filled with water and there were snow drifts in other places. We buried our Dad at the St. Michael cemetery in Lac Bellevue.

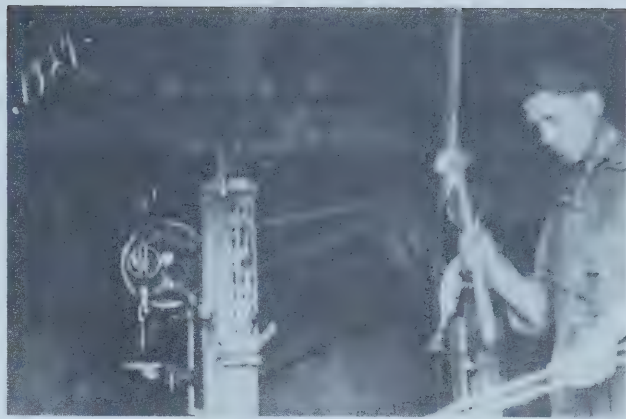
The year 1917 was a year of confusion, despair and months of crying that could be heard for a mile. John was out working to earn money to buy his blacksmith tools and to build a house and blacksmith shop. He had a girlfriend and wanted to get

married but had to postpone the wedding due to dad's passing.

Steve was also working around Innisfree. He'd work from daybreak till dark and then do chores. After working for a while he decided to come home and asked for his pay. The farmer told him he had no money but he could send some flour home and pay later. The flour turned out to be fine bran or middlings as it was called at the mill. It wasn't fit for bread but we ate it. It was nice to have Steve at home to help but he needed shoes and clothes so he had to go back, walking from Lake Eliza to Innisfree. About 8 miles after he left home the sole came loose on one of his shoes so walking was almost impossible. It would flop at every step but he walked to a store which was around where Myrnam is now. He asked if he could get a pair of shoes, the storekeeper said, "Yes, as soon as you lay the money on the counter," so Steve kept on walking. Then he decided to cut the sole off but that made it even more uncomfortable. Finally he threw the shoes in the bush and walked the rest of the way barefooted. Next day his boss went to town and bought shoes and some clothes but they were men's sizes. When Steve complained about the size, he was told not to worry he would grow into them. So it was, back to working from before daylight to 10 or 11 o'clock at night. Steve was 16 years old at that time. When it came to hauling hay and the long hours he decided that starving wouldn't be any worse than getting worked to death. One Sunday while the family was at church, Steve took off for home. He even stayed off the road for miles so that somebody wouldn't report that he was heading home. It wasn't long till harvest so Steve went to see our American bachelor neighbor, Al Spaniol, who was farming along the North Saskatchewan River. He had a field along the river which was worth a section of our sandy land. He always had a heavy crop on that river flat so he needed help for stooking. He farmed about two miles from our place, so Steve asked for a stooking job and was hired. Next day Al Spaniol started cutting his wheat and Steve started stooking. After a few rounds Al stopped and walked over to Steve. It looked like he was going to lose his job, but Al told Steve to get on the binder and cut grain. Steve made a round and stopped for Al to take over but he was told to keep going, so Steve never stooked for Al again, but he worked for A.G. Spaniol for many years. That's where he learned that the Americans only work till 6 p.m. and not till 10 or 11. Working for Al, Steve learned to speak English and Al also taught him to read and write. We all worked for A. G. Spaniol and you couldn't ask for a better neighbor.

John, who was older and had better people to work for, earned enough money to send for his blacksmith tools to the T. Eaton Co. catalogue. He ordered 1 forge, to heat iron to be shaped; 1 post

drill and bits, to drill holes in metal; 1 anvil, to shape metal on; 2 hammers, to shape metal with; 3 tongs, to take hot metal out of the forge; 2 chisels to cut metal; 2 punches, to punch holes in hot metal; 1 tap and die set, to make treads on rod and tread holes; 1 hack saw, to cut cold metal also lots of hack saw blades and some blacksmith welding powder to weld things. Al Spaniol made out the order for John's tools. While waiting for his order to come in John was busy cutting and hauling logs for his house, blacksmith shop and barn. In the spring of 1918 John set up his tools in the little storage building and started doing blacksmith work for the farmers around. He was a busy man, trying to farm, blacksmith, build and get married. His girlfriend, Annie Hlus of Innisfree, did not live near so there was a lot of travelling before the wedding. John and Annie got married after spring work. Mother had to move whatever she had in her storage building because it became John's living quarters. John now was building his house when he wasn't in the blacksmith shop fixing something for the farmers around. They stayed with us till the next fall when their house was finished. At that time we also had a granary built and the roof was thatched by a close neighbor, Mr. Louie Sydorchuk. That was the first building we had with a leak proof roof. Since Steve was planning to start building his place and working out it was up to mother and Pete to farm the best way they could. I don't remember any threshing in 1918. The year 1919 was a year to record in our history! Steve decided to take up the mud and rail floor in the large room and put in a rough lumber floor because he had marriage in mind, too. We also had the west fence put up along the road allowance. This meant that two sections of land had a fence around them. Horses and cattle of the farmers living in that area could roam all over. The spring was near normal but after the crop was put in it hardly rained at all. We had one of the driest years in this area. Steve got married that summer. He married Ernestine Michaluk of Lafond and it was the biggest wedding at that time. Steve, after he started to work for A.G. Spaniol, learned English fast and he mixed a lot with the English. He spoke English because he was treated better by them than he was by the Ukrainians before. One of them would ask Steve if he was getting married and he'd say, "Yes, come to the wedding!" "Can we bring our friends?" they'd ask. Of course Steve said yes. Well they came! There were wagons and even buggies all over the place. Mother was getting desperate because she was running out of food. So she and the women helping her were chasing chickens all over the place, catching them, butchering, cooking and feeding them to the people. The Americans from around Stoney Lake and the Hopkins area talked for years about the big time they had at Steve Demchuk's wedding. That was the last bit of fun for that year. The



John Demchuk at his blacksmith shop at Lake Eliza 1924.

weather continued dry, no rain since spring, our wheat was about 10 inches tall, the hay was poor and there was nobody to go looking for patches of hay to cut. Our feed supply was very poor but so was everyone else's. When it came time to harvest, Steve looked at the wheat and said it couldn't be cut with a binder so mother, Steve's wife Ernestine, Pete and I pulled about 6 acres of it by hand and piled it. After awhile it was hauled and stacked to be threshed. We had a hard time to get anyone to thresh it for us because it was pulled out of the ground and it had dirt on it. Finally Henry Tatosky agreed to thresh it for us with his Mogul tractor and wooden threshing machine. Mr. Frank Krankowsky was his feeder man. We did not get enough wheat to grind for flour and for seed, for the next year. Our straw supply was very poor so the straw thatched roof that was put on our new granary had to come off to be fed to the cows and horses to keep them from starving. We were able to save our animals but many lost their's due to starvation. Cliff and Larry Sewell, brothers who had moved up from the south had brought about 200 head of cattle and were caught by this dry year and the earliest of winters which started sometime in October. They lost almost all their cattle and some of their horses, too. The Sewell's borrowed money and bought feed from as far as 40 miles away but the winter was so long and so cold that only the well fed animals could survive. My brothers were hired to haul feed for the Sewell ranch. That was not all the winter of 1919 brought. It also brought the flu epidemic which took many lives including that of Mrs. Cliff Sewell. We were all sick, too. My back ached so bad that I thought I would never walk again. We ate an awful lot of garlic and think that is what helped us survive. People were told not to go out to help their sick neighbors but some went anyway and they saved many lives. But, bad as the winter was, youngsters were getting married. We were invited by Mr. and Mrs. Philipowich to their daughter's wedding where we hoped to meet more of the people living in this country. Even I met someone. As we came

into the house which was full of people, there was a small lady standing near the door. She had an apron on and a little girl was standing behind her mother's apron, playing peek-a-boo. The lady spoke to us and told mother that her name was Mrs. Cherniawsky. "Is that your boy?" she asked, looking at me. "Yes," answered mother. "We have a little girl, maybe we will be in-laws someday," she said. "Oh! Yeah!" mother replied, gruffly. That little girl was Annie Cherniawsky and 15 years later we got married! Steve and Ernestine were living in the Charlie Harris house that the people left some time before. In 1920 Steve was busy building his house and barn. That same year Lake Eliza School was built. We started school late in the fall with about 35 of us attending. Of these, only about six could speak English, the rest had to be taught to speak first then to read, write and do arithmetic. Our first teacher's name was Miss Selma Johanson. She was our teacher till the following fall which I think was the longest any one had stayed during my few years at school. She had 35 kids to teach and by the time she left, I was able to understand enough English to direct English travellers to Ashworth's, Spaniol's or the post office.

Miss Johanson had our school picture taken and sent us each a picture which is a reminder of our first year at school. She gave the kids of Lake Eliza an idea what Canada was about, she taught us respect for others, for ourselves and to respect the property of our neighbors as well as of this country, because this is our home. Miss Selma Johanson was our pioneer educator of Lake Eliza and one of my great wishes has been that we meet again. During my school term, which ended in 1925, there were 6 teachers including Miss Johanson, Mr. Harry Parkinson, Mr. H.M. Baker, Mr. Burton, Mr. Oliver Paddicord and Mr. S.G. Dean who had to walk three miles to school and back. During my school days and after John and Steve got settled on their farms it was Pete and my mother who did the farming while it was my job to bring cows home after school. I didn't mind because I had the Sydor-chuk boys for company as their cows were grazing in the same area. Sometimes I would ride Pete's horse to look for the cows. By 1922 Pete got himself a farm S.W. Sec. 4, Twp. 56, Rge. 8. It was another farm to tend and another set of buildings to build. In 1923 Pete got married to Katie Skulsky of Lac Bellevue. It was a year of hauling logs and building. I helped after school and on weekends. 1924 was the year that Pete moved to his home and was farming on his own as well as helping mother to haul water every second day. From 1915 to 1934 we hauled or carried water every other day. In 1924 we had some kind of celebration at school but I don't remember what the occasion was. We had a program in school which included games, singing, marching, and we received copper Jubilee coins. After that Mr. Alec

Petrowsky, with his team and wagon, took some of us to the first Stoney Lake stampede. There were a couple corrals and I think there was one chute. The riders that came out of that chute had to get off or fall off the animal that they were riding before it hit the bush as there was no arena. Next day in school one half of the kids were cowboys and the others were horses. They were stampeding all over the yard. It was also a good year for rabbits. There were so many that the dogs wouldn't even look at them and they destroyed most of the small brush. They also chewed around feed stacks until some of them toppled over. Late that fall I quit school and became a farmer. I was quite anxious to quit school, too. Next spring when I went to plow with a team and walking plow mother told me that every time the plow hits a rock and jumps over it I was to pull the plow back and start over again. I tried pulling that plow but it wouldn't come and every time I'd try to pull it to the right it would go to the left and vice versa. By noon I made two rounds on a small patch and decided that I wanted to go back to school. When I told mother about going back to school she disagreed completely. In the afternoon she looked at my plowing and condemned it completely. Now that Pete was on his own his saddle mare was there too, so I had to walk every evening to get the cows and every second day to find the horses to haul water with. Many a time I couldn't find the horses because in two days they would drift as far as east of Steve Proskiw's. Then I would make as many as 8 to 12 miles trying to check all the open land where they might be. There were times that we had to get Pete to find them for us. Finally mother decided that I needed a saddle horse of my own to get cows and horses with when we needed them.

In 1926, Roy Shaeffer, who came from the south and was breaking land south of the river, had trouble collecting his pay so he decided to sell the whole outfit. He had a little sorrel mare, a saddle, chaps, and bridle for sale for \$45.00, so we bought it all. So on the second day of August, 1926 I became a cowboy. That was one of the greatest days of my life! Many a time, when my horses would join some of the mavericks that Steve used to get in his trading deals, I would have to ride at a dead run for miles on the open range before I could bring my horses home. During the horse trading days, from the time we first came to this country till the last war there were hundreds of spoiled or sick horses that the horse traders peddled off. There were the run-aways, the wind broke, the balky ones, the kickers, biters, fence crawlers, jumpers and cribbers. There were also those that you couldn't catch when you turned them out and those that ran when they saw you coming. Those were the ones that gave me the most trouble when I had to bring my horses in. In the meantime I was sneaking in to Steve's place and playing his fiddle. I decided that I wanted to be a

fiddle player so when a neighbor boy, who was working south, decided to quit the farm, he said he couldn't pay him cash but gave Fred an old fiddle instead. Then Fred had a fiddle for sale and I had a few muskrat pelts. We traded and I became the proud owner of a second hand fiddle. In 1927 I played for my first dance at the Lac Bellevue Hall. The first wedding I played for was William Sydor-chuk and Emma Halina's. William was my best friend all through school and cow hunting. After their wedding, Bill and Emma moved to Peace River and farmed there until last year. Now they are retired and living in Edmonton. A short time later Bill's brother got married and since he sold me the fiddle I played at his wedding too. I also played for George Boratynec and Julia Denega who farmed in the Lake Eliza area and retired to St. Paul. We lost Julia a few weeks ago and will miss her. I played for dances and parties for many years. At that time a fellow played because he enjoyed it and many times that was the only pay I got. But there was farming to do first and after spring work it was cutting brush and breaking new land. One hot afternoon, Larry Sewell rode up and asked me if I would like to help him bring home some cattle from Mr. Noel's. Mr. Noel was the postmaster at Lac Bellevue. I agreed before Larry finished the sentence so we started out right away. By the time we got there it was dark and the Noel's were in bed. I found out then that cowboys don't run their horses unless they have to. Mrs. Noel made us some supper and Mr. Noel told us where we could find the cows in the morning and we went to sleep. At daybreak we went out in the fog and found the cows without any trouble. Mr. Noel told Larry that the steer would jump or crawl through fences, the old cow was very slow and the others were okay. Larry roped the old cow first and tied her to a tree, then he roped the steer and tied him to the cow and let them loose in the corral. By the time breakfast was over the steer and the cow had learned to get along and within two miles they decided that walking the road was easiest. We brought them about 13 miles through bush and open country, to Pete Demchuk's corrals without much trouble. That was the end of my job. Larry gave me \$5.00 and went home. I couldn't believe my good fortune. It was two weeks pay at that time, or the price of a calf or half a cow. I was so pleased with my pay that I offered to help to chase the herd at least as far as Lake Eliza hall. Howard Covey, Steve Demchuk and his wife, Ernestine were to take the herd to St. Paul. Howard told me he didn't need any help but as soon as they got the herd past Duprey's place, the cattle scattered into bush and onto open land. They lost quite a number of cattle. Some of them got so wild that they had to be shot that winter and the meat sold.

By 1928 the threshing machines were getting bigger. Al Spaniol bought a McCormick 15-30 trac-

tor and a 28" separator and brother Pete bought his old wooden separator and a 6 horse power Mogul stationery engine. The engine had to be hauled on a horse-drawn wagon and so did the threshing machine. We used that little outfit for two years. The last year we got a job to thresh flax for Frank Totosk. He had about four loads in a stack and it took us about three days to thresh it. Flax straw is used to make thread and cord and when it winds around the shaft it rubs against the wall of the machine, gets hot enough to start a fire inside. We spent more time cutting and unwrapping the flax from the shaft than we did threshing the stuff. They say that experience costs money, well, that one cost us plenty!

Then came the dirty thirties. I remember them as the toughest years of my life. Most of the crops in Western Canada were drying out, in the Lake Eliza hills, we got some crop on the north hillsides and in the valleys. It was the money drought that hurt most. Big business dried up the money supply and sat on it while people starved. There were no jobs to earn a dollar to buy food with. We farmers were depending on the storekeepers, machinery agents and others to let us have what we needed on credit till after threshing. The Yo-yo's in Winnipeg, knowing of our dependence on these people kept the price of wheat at from 18 to 25¢ and sometimes 26¢. They knew that the farmers had to sell now and pay their credit or the merchants wouldn't give them any credit next year. This kept on till the Liberals were defeated and the Conservatives were voted in. The R.B. Bennett government pegged the price of wheat at 67¢ a bushel or about 40¢ a bushel for number three wheat in St. Paul. This was the beginning of a drive to create a wheat marketing board. The wartime measures act does not allow those in the grain exchange to prey on the farmer



At the back Larry Demchuk. Middle row L-R: Gladys Drobot, Cheryl Demchuk, Lillian Demchuk, Cathy Demchuk, Heather Demchuk, Leonard Demchuk, John Drobot, Lorne Demchuk, Annie Demchuk, Leanne Drobot, Mike Demchuk, Elana Drobot, Mike's and Annie's 45th Anniversary. 1979.

during the war but they sure don't help anyone during peace time. The Minister of Agriculture stated that if it wasn't for the complaining farmers and the railroad bums Canada would be well off. As soon as the war broke out in 1939 the grain exchange was closed. The farmers became the bread basket of the army and the bums became heroes.

During the thirties there were many stampedes in this area. There were three at Raft Lake, in the Clandonald area, two at Myrnam, 2 at Derwent, 1 at Riverside Park and 2 in St. Paul. Two weeks before, we would help Steve round up his "bucking" horses to take to the Stampedes. There was one mare, called One-eyed Susie, that used to hang out between Capitol and Richland Schools on the gravel plains near Elk Point. We tried to get her but she got away on us so the next week we were wise to her tricks and caught her. She sure liked the bush. I called her "One-Eyed-Bush Gopher". It was my job to lead her to Raft Lake and Steve's hired man, Harry Garnier, led two more. Steve gave me strict orders to keep Susie tied in the corral but the stampede manager, Bobby Hill, couldn't see how she could jump a six foot fence so he turned her loose. The next morning a fellow who had heard about the mare opened the gate about 6 feet, and his mouth opened, too. Susie saw the open gate, rushed past the guy before he could close it and was gone. Steve was very angry and gave me hell so I told him it was Bobby's fault. The last year Derwent had a stampede we trailed a bunch of horses there. Trailing horses is simple, you pick a horse that is a leader or a sneak and lead him, the rest of them will follow. We had to load the horses on the ferry everytime we took them to Raft Lake, Derwent or Myrnam but they always followed the leader. We got to Derwent early, the sun was shining and it was a beautiful day, but we were flat broke. Steve's wife, Ernestine sent enough food to feed till we got home but at that time there were many guys walking around hungry. We gave one a sandwich and soon there were more standing around looking for a bite to eat. We knew that when the stampede was over we wouldn't have enough to eat so we each rode two bareback horses across the finish line and made 50¢ each. I remember a father telling his sons, who got bucked off that if they didn't improve they wouldn't have any dinner that day. We went and spent 25¢ on supper and 25¢ on the dance ticket but we got gypped because the high class girls didn't dance with low class cowboys! We decided to leave and go to bed but by then the weather changed and it was raining very lightly. It was chilly sleeping but it wasn't long before it was time to get up and move out. We had some complaints, we were tired, sleepy, cold, hungry and had a 30 mile ride in the rain ahead of us. The ride from Derwent to the Hopkins Ferry gave us time to wonder if cowboying was so good. Steve promised us a loaf of bread. He

caught up to us as we loaded the horses on the ferry. We got our loaf of bread at about 3 p.m. so we broke it in three, I gobbled mine up too fast and got sick, but the sun was starting to shine and it was the last stampede of the season so it wasn't too bad. Oh, yes, I forgot to mention the stampede out of Elk Point, close to the river, east of the Dog Rump Creek. It was the second stampede for me after the Stoney Lake stampede of 1924. We got there in Steve and John's model T Fords. We drove along the north side of the river from Spaniol's east, by Hopkins ferry till we came to the creek. We crossed the creek by driving through the water and were at the Dog Rump Stampede. The corrals were built not far from a heavy stand of trees and there was no arena so there too, so the boys had to jump or fall off before the animal got to the bush. Frank Totosky, the clown, made things quite lively. The rain storm in the afternoon soaked most of us except those who could crawl under the wagon boxes or something. The stampede at Riverside Park was held on June 27, 1932, one mile east of Steve Demchuk's, on N.E. ¼ of Sec. 27, Twp. 55, Rge. 8, where Dave and Mona Lawrence's trailer now sits.

After farming for eight years it was time for me to build a house so we wouldn't have to live in the leaky sod-roofed house any longer. I cut about 100 spruce trees, some of them 18 inches thick, and got Eric Norgren to hew the logs and build a house for us. Eric agreed to do all the work for one good milk cow. He was very happy with the cow and I was very happy with the new house. On June 2, 1934, I married Annie Cherniawsky of Lake Eliza. That summer, before we moved into the new house, we went to a concert at Lake Eliza Hall, with a team of horses and a wagon. It started to rain so we stayed at Annie's folks till the rain stopped. When we got home to the old house, the sod roof had leaked and the mud had come off the ceiling. Mother was very angry and was getting ready to put the mud back on the ceiling for about the 16th time in the 19 years we lived there. That fall we moved into the new house and it was the first time in 19 years that I could relax when it rained without expecting a chunk of mud to fall on my head.

In 1935 we had our first picnic at Stoney Lake. Mr. and Mrs. Steve Saiko, Roderick and Margaret McGinnis, Annie and I were in charge. It was a big picnic and an open air dance at night. We worked from 9 a.m. till 9 a.m. the next morning. That same year we had a hail storm. Chunks of ice, some about four inches in diameter, came down for about 20 minutes. Some people lost their crops completely, birds and small animals were killed, cows and horses were walking around with lumps on their backs, bark on the trees was bruised and later dried up. It was another year of hoping that there would be enough crop to pay the expenses and have enough to eat and wear till the next year. Annie and

I did a lot of work together, she even worked in the field with me. She did jobs like disking, rock picking, stooking in the fall, she helped haul hay, milked cows, fed pigs and chickens. She liked to help for weddings, parties, picnics and funerals. She has baked and decorated about 78 wedding, anniversary and birthday cakes. Her hobbies are cooking, baking, spinning and knitting.

We were part of a group that put on the Stoney Lake picnics for about 20 years and we had big crowds all the time. Some of our programs were ball games, horseshoe games, races for everyone, bucking barrel, rope pulling and sack fights. We had a group called the Stoney Lake Trail Riders who put on a horse show and there was always lots of camping, boating and fishing. Refreshment booths were run by local people and we always had a big dance at night. These picnics were put on to raise money for our local farm union, the F.U.A. which lasted from 1946 till it was taken over by the arm chair boys.

Our only daughter Gladys, was born on June 15, 1936. 1939 was the start of the second world war, frost and low quotas. Our son, Larry was born on March 6, 1942. 1944 was the very best of all my farming years. I had a crop of wheat that grew on the hill tops, in the valleys, on south sides, north sides and where nothing grew before. I was lucky to have my grain permit at Armistice with John Morusyk, where there was room for wheat all winter. Roderick McGinnis and I spent the whole winter hauling wheat every second day. I paid off all my debts and bought my first car, a 1935 Ford. We also decided to move north to S.E. ¼ Sec. 30, Twp. 56, Rge. 8. We now live 13 miles south east of St. Paul. (We lost our sister-in-law Annie, John's wife, in 1944 to the dreaded cancer). We bought an old log building, moved it and set it up again. The following year we finished our second house and moved in before Christmas. Prices in the forties and fifties were still close to the wartime prices, so farming was closer to being equal that it is now. Our youngest and second son, Leonard, was born on March 27, 1949. On April 5, we brought our son home from the hospital but Annie lost her youngest sister, Regina, at the age of 19. In 1950 I bought my first tractor and two years later I sold most of my horses. My mother passed away on June 3, 1953. Gladys started teaching at Chesterville School, in the Lafond area, in 1955. When Chesterville School moved to Lafond, Gladys moved there along with her pupils. She taught in Lafond for 3 years, St. Paul (Glen Avon) for 6 years, Wetaskiwin 1 year and in Elk Point for two years.

The winter of 1955-56 was the second worse winter in my memory, the worse being in 1919. Every week the roads would get plugged by snow storms. It got so bad that the only way to open the road was to doze it crossways. At one time there

were two road patrols and one dozer broke down and snowed in around St. Edouard. The road north of Poitras and Roger Noel's had to be dozed crossways. The snow banks were up to the top of telephone poles and stayed there till June.

Annie lost her mother on October 15, 1957 and her father on November 4, 1959.

My brother John left farming when the railroad came through Myrnam. He was building his blacksmith shop, Matt Chapelsky was building the hotel on the corner and T.C. Ashworth was building his office, east of the hotel, across the street at the same time. John operated his shop till he retired in 1965. John and his first wife, Annie Hlus, had two children, Bill and Florence. Bill is a welding instructor at Vermilion College. He married Mildred Pozerniuk of Myrnam and they have two boys. Brian and Darryl both live in Edmonton. Florence, John's second child, is head nurse at the Misericordia Hospital in Edmonton and is still single. John also has a son, Roger, from his second marriage to Mary Nalezity. Mary passed away on June 23, 1975. Roger is living in Myrnam. John is now seriously ill and in the Myrnam hospital.

My brother Steve, and his wife Ernestine Michaluk, had one son, Reece, who married Josephine Kitt from Myrnam. They are living on the home place. Both of their sons, Don and Alan, are married and living in Leduc. Their daughter, Joy, her husband and son live in Ontario. Steve who was a farmer, cowboy, horse trader, councillor, car sales man and gasman is now retired in Elk Point, a widower since Oct. 18, 1975.

Peter who married Katie Skulsky, had no children. He was a farmer for many years, now retired and living in Elk Point, too. Pete has been a widower since April 4, 1970.

We have a family of three, Gladys, Larry and Leonard. Gladys got married, Aug. 10, 1968, to John Drobot who is a farmer, rancher and councillor. They have two girls, Leanne and Elana, going to school in Elk Point. Larry married Lillian Stepa, Aug. 28, 1965. Lillian is a registered nurse and has nursed for a number of years in St. Paul and Elk Point. Larry applied for a job as soon as he left school and was hired. He worked at Taylor and Pearson Auto Supply, at Paquette Motors as partsman for a short time then at Acklands as a salesman. In 1976, Larry went into partnership with his father-in-law, Paul Stepa and brother-in-law Victor. The business is now known as Elk Point Insurance and Realty Ltd. Larry and Lillian have two children, Cheryl and Lorne, going to school in Elk Point. Leonard finished high school in Elk Point, went to N.A.I.T. and now works with Alberta Government Telephones. He married Heather Lindquist on April 29, 1972. Len still works for A.G.T. as well as farming and ranching. He is president of the Stoney Lake Stampede Association and Heather is very

active in Community affairs. They have one little girl, Cathy, who is almost three.

Mom and I are retired on the farm and taking life easy. With our famly living close by we are lucky.

STEVE AND ERNESTINE DEMCHUK

as told to Reece Demchuk

My wife, Ernestine Mychaluk, was born in Austria and as a small child, moved with her parents to South America where they farmed until about 1900. My wife told us a story about their sailing from South America to Canada in about the year 1900. The story was that the first day at sea on their trip to Canada, the war broke out and news arrived that the Germans were looking for this particular ship. To protect this ship's identity, the crew repainted the ship during the night and arrived safely in Halifax.



Ernestine and Steve Demchuk 1948. Picture taken at St. Paul Rodeo. Steve Rodeo Manager.

Ernestine and her parents first moved to Wilkingdon for a brief time and then to Lac Bellevue. Her mother died at an early age, shortly after their arrival to Lac Bellevue.

My family landed, in Canada, in the spring of 1914 from Austria. We lived in the Innisfree district for a year. Then Dad homesteaded in the Lake Eliza district and we moved from Innisfree to Lake Eliza to start our future in this new land in 1915.

I married Ernestine in 1919 and in 1920, our only child, Reece was born.

Times were hard, Dad purchased a team of oxen and broke up some land and seeded our first crop. But homestead luck — we had an early frost and the crop froze.

There was one alternative, my older brother John and I had to go back to the Innisfree area and get work as the farmers there were fairly advanced at that time; they already had binders to cut grain and threshing machines. The average day was from sunrise to sunset. We helped hay, stook and clear



Steve Demchuk on way to Municipal Meeting on January 1932 in St. Paul.

land. The farmer we worked for clearing the land, said he wanted to mow hay and make sure that he would not break the mower knife.

The pay was flour that we packed on our backs, back to the homestead. He put some flour on the top and the bottom part, was 4X. When mother tried baking bread, the bread did not turn out very good.

In 1916, I got a job on a farm 1½ miles from home. He was a wonderful neighbour and became my life-long friend. He was A.G. Spanial, who came from North Dakota, U.S.A. I worked for Spanial for 7 years. I really liked working for him.

Then in 1917, Cliff Sewall rode a saddle horse from Southern Alberta looking for a ranch site. He arrived in the early part of July. At that time, grass and pea vines were knee high on a saddle horse. Cliff looked around and he thought that this was God's country to ranch in but one thing he did not know about, was our Northern winter.

In 1918, he drove up 500 head of cattle and about 200 head of horses. Then tragedy struck in the winter of 1918/19. Southern stock could not take the cold winter. He lost all of his cattle, and some of the horses. I ground feed steadily, from morning until night, with Spanial's stationary engine and crusher. We would come out in the morning and find 10 or 12 head of cattle down that could not get up. Orders were, hit them in the head and skin off the hides which he hauled by team loads to Vermilion to sell.

It was not short of feed, Sewall had 4 horse teams and racks 20 feet long, 10 feet wide and 8 feet high. He bought feed where ever possible. Area covered was from Cold Lake to Vermilion.

It was there that I started my horseman career on the Sewall ranch. I started riding and roping which I have done all my life. I bought cattle with Sewall; turkeys, drove cattle from Cold Lake area to the stockyard in St. Paul.

In 1924, I took a contract to herd 500 cattle from the south side of the North Saskatchewan river. I grazed them in the Lac Bellevue area, near the Beavallon ferry crossing, on the North side. I lived with my family near Lac Bellevue in one of Labrecque's houses.

The only problem at that time; I lacked a good saddle. Sewalls had good saddles, but how could I get one. I waited until Cliff rode off some place and I went and started trading with Cliff's younger brother, Larry.

Larry had a new Riley McCormick Saddle which was called the Pride of the Prairies and about \$150.00 at that time, a fortune. I had 6 little pigs. So I started working on Larry. I told Larry that there was big money in pig raising. Larry got interested and wondered what he could trade me for some pigs. I told Larry I would take his saddle for four little pigs. Larry agreed. I got Larry to my place, loaded up those pigs and brought that saddle home. When Cliff came home late that night and put his saddle horse in the barn, he heard some squeeling, lit a match and said to himself, "Where in hell did them four scrawny pigs come from?"

Next morning he found out that I had done some trading, he gave Larry hell; Larry loaded the pigs and came in tears, wanting his saddle back. I had to do some fancy talking and I gave Larry the other two pigs I had at home and Larry went away with 6 scrawny pigs.

Only thing Cliff said after Larry came back with the 6 pigs was, when Papa leaves home, the kids give everything away. I used that saddle for many years.

1924 was my first attempt to run a stampede. Cliff Sewall, Eddie Spencer and Gordon Flanagan, they are all deceased now, were my helpers. We put on the first Stony Lake Stampede in 1923, which still is an annual event to the present day. We had two holding pens, one for horses and one for the cattle, one chute and no arena. When the chute gate was opened, if the pick up man could not catch up, get out the best way you can because there was a lot of bush around.



Picture taken in 1924. Ernestine Demchuk; Josephine Labrecque; and Steve Demchuk. Family lived on south east shore of Lac Bellevue Lake.

I farmed in the Lake Eliza district and in the early days, when the people started to homestead up north around the Beaver River, I made good money



Steve Demchuk breaking horses that would be used for field work. July 1935.

on strayed away horses. They would come as far as the river and I would watch in the St. Paul Journal strayed ads and pick up the strayed horses, notify the owners and get my reward money.

From 1930 to 1946, I had a string of bucking horses and I put on stampedes around the different parts of the country.

Nowadays, big truck vans make moving fast and easy. In my day, we drove them from place to place, crossed ferry crossings and what not.

I was on the Municipal Council for 25 years. I custom threshed for years, broke land for the neighbours, sawed lumber, sold cars for T.C. Motors in St. Paul.

I raised horses; traded and sold every fourth horse I traded, I had one extra horse in the pocket, cash money.

The early days were happy days, the tempo was much slower than now, everybody had time to spare.

We had our share of enjoyment dances, school concerts and picnics.

I played the fiddle and my wife was the drummer; it helped on the grocery bill. I will never forget one early morning in June; my wife and I played at a dance in the Henley School house. I drove a freshly broken team and wagon. We came to where Tony Krankowsky resides at the present time; at that time, the Jim Murray family made it their home. Right in the middle of the road, Murray's bull laid chewing his cud, and would not get up. I, like a fool, instead of driving around him, I was going to show him a thing or two.

I put the lines to the team and the horses jumped over the bull. When the wagon landed on the bull, the bull decided to get up and over went my wagon. The wife at that time, wore white stockings, they were the style at that time, but they got dyed in a hurry to a brown color.

In 1956, I retired and moved to Elk Point and am still living there. Five years ago, my wife passed away, so I have to make the best of it.

WILLIAM DENEGA AND FAMILY

by Steve Denega

William Denega was born July, 1885 in Kolohyu Galscia Babrika, Austria. He emigrated to Auburn, New York, U.S.A. in the year 1903. He worked at various jobs while there.

On May 2nd, 1907, he married Anna Petrowsky, daughter of Andrew Petrowsky. The couple continued living and working in the U.S.A. for several years. In 1908, they were blessed with a daughter, Julia, and in 1911, with a son, Alfred.



L-R: Bessie Lien, Jess Lien, Steve Denega, Olga Denega, George Boratyne, Julia Boratyne — 1976.

Hearing stories of land being sold in Canada at ten dollars a quarter section, he decided to book into it. In 1911, they left the U.S.A. for Canada. William and Anna, with their two children, arrived in Innisfree in the spring. There they rented a house in the area of Chaley, northeast of Innisfree. They lived there for a few years while Mr. Denega worked at different places on the railroads that were being built at that time.

In 1914, he filed for a homestead in the Lake Eliza District. It was the northwest $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 4, township 56, Range 8. That same year, he built a log house with sod cover roof and the following spring, he moved in with his family. They made the move with a team of oxens.

Mr. Denega continued working for the railroad to supplement the farm income and keep his family going and to get a few things to improve the land.

As the years went by, he was able to purchase a team of horses. Then it was easier to get around and to start breaking up some more new land. When the land was ready for planting, Mr. Denega started seeding it into grain.

The towns at that time were far away, Vermilion being the closest. There were a few small country



The Denega pioneers Wm and Anna with son Steve about mid 30's.

stores where a person could get some sugar and salt and a few other essentials.

As the years went by, they were blessed with two more children, Bessie and Steve. Dad kept on farming and trying to do the best for his family. In June, 1956, his wife Anna passed away and he was left to live with his son and daughter-in-law. He stayed with Steve and Olga on the farm until they got a house in the town of St. Paul. In February, 1965, he moved to St. Paul with them. He lived with them until his passing away on August 28th, 1976 at the age of 91.

Steve, the youngest of the family, upon finishing his grade eight in the Lake Eliza Schoolhouse, decided to help his Dad to keep the farm going. They kept on breaking new land and working it with horses all this time. In 1947, Steve bought his first new half-ton Fargo truck at the price of \$1,200.00 and in 1948, he bought a new John Deere Model D tractor at the price of \$2,400.00. Farming was quite interesting for Steve.

In the fall of 1951, Steve married Olga Sikorski, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dan Sikorski. Steve and Olga have one son Kenneth. After moving to St. Paul in 1965, Steve still kept on farming and Olga got a job in town and helped on the farm on weekends and on days off. For the past ten years, Olga has been working at the Parkland Nursing Home and continues helping Steve on the farm during her days off.

THE ADRIEN DÉSAULNIERS STORY

by Juliana Désaulniers

Adrien Désaulniers, son of Thomas Désaulniers and Alphonsine Caron, was born in Shawinigin, P.Q. He came out west in 1911 to join his brothers, René and Lucien, who had already filed for homesteads in the Lafond area in 1908. He filed for his homestead on Section 26-56-10-W4, close to the Lac Bellevue district but belonged to the parish of Lafond. The three brothers all worked in Spruce Grove to make money to open up their homesteads.

Adrien was married to Yvonne Guenette of Spruce Grove in a double wedding with his brother, René to Florence Guenette, on April 6th., 1915. He settled on his farm and raised a family of eleven children. Adrien's wife pre-deceased him in 1934, when his oldest daughter was 18 years old and the twin boys were one and a half months. In 1940, he married Mrs. Elphege Lafrenière (née Léonilde Lapointe) a widow with three boys. Of this marriage were born four children. Adrien passed away at the age of 62 in 1953 and his wife Léonilde in 1969. The children of the first marriage are:

Adrienne (1916-1969) the oldest daughter, married Philippe Lafrance of St. Brides, son of Cécile Lafrance and Clarina Lagassé. They lived on a farm in St. Brides for a few years. Then they moved to St. Paul and from there to Bonnyville. They had seven children.

Maurice, the oldest son, died before he was two years old.

Wilfrid married Julianna Journault in 1943, daughter of Joseph Journault and Marie Anna Belanger of Lafond. They have ten children, five of them married and one still in school. They farmed in Lafond area till 1974 when they moved to the town of St. Paul.



Standing: Wilfrid, Irene Clark, Madeleine Anderson, Claire St. Jean, Roger. Kneeling: Victor and Hector (twins). Insert: Roland.

Irene married Thomas Clark in 1943, son of Thomas Clark and Eva Labrecque of Chesterville. They have seven children. They farmed in Chesterville for some years, they went to work in Royalties, Alberta. They now work and reside in Quesnel, B.C. and all their family live in B.C. They still have one son at school.

Madeleine had two daughters from her first marriage. She was remarried to Colonel Anderson, in Prince George and they have one son. They lived and worked in Prince George and two years ago had a house built in Blind Bay on Shushwap Lake in B.C. and are semi-retired there. Their children are all married.

Cecile (1929-1978) married Hubert Filiatrault in Prince George where they lived and raised their family of six. One is still in school.



Mr. and Mrs. Rene Désaulniers (Florence Guenette), Mr. and Mrs. Adrien Désaulniers (Yvonne Guenette), Mr. and Mrs. Frank Ozano (Elenore Guenette). Taken in 1930 in Lafond at Mr. Rene Désaulniers.

Claire married Charlie St. Jean of Edmonton. They have one son, still in school. They bought an acreage in Stony Plain and make their home there.

Roland was remarried to Gail Raybuck of Seattle U.S.A. He had four children from a previous marriage. One son and one daughter died in infancy. His two daughters are married and live in Alberta. When Roland left home, he worked in B.C. for a while. He then went to work on the oil rigs and has been with the same company for over 25 years. His job has taken him to many parts of the world. For the past three years, he has been in Italy. Roland and his wife, Gail, plan to retire on the outskirts of Seattle, U.S.A.

Roger married Helen Hiller of Rollyview, Alberta and they had five children. One son died at 18. They have a married daughter and two children in school. Roger also worked for oil companies. He quit for a while and farmed in the Lafond district, but is now back as a consultant which takes him to many parts of Alberta and Northern B.C.

Hector married LaRae Anderson of Longview, Alberta. They have four children. He has been working for oil companies in Alberta and for a change went farming in the St. Paul area for a few years. For the past six years he has been working overseas, first in Iran and now in Duloi on the Persian Gulf. Their children graduated from grade twelve, one son in St. Paul Regional School, another from Collège Notre Dame in Rome and two from Salzburg, Austria. They now make their home in Crossfield, Alberta.



Mr. and Mrs. Adrien Désaulniers, (Née Yvonne Guenette).

Victor married Mary Winerich of Hondo, Alberta and they have four daughters, one married and one is still in school. He worked for oil companies in Alberta and now overseas. First he was in Ahwaz, Iran, where he had his family and so did his twin brother, Hector, for a few years. He now works for a month and comes home for a month flying on his own time. They make their home in Sherwood Park.

Yvonne, first daughter of the second marriage, married Wally Krcy, in Prince George, and they have three daughters. They now live in Vancouver.

Eugene married Doreen in Edmonton, works and live there. They have two children.

Thérèse works in St. Paul where she now resides.

Louise married Ken Schulte of Killam. They have one adopted son and live in Edmonton.

THE ALBERT DESAULNIERS FAMILY

by his son, Marcel

My father, Albert Desaulniers, was born on August 15, 1894 in Ste. Flore, County of St. Maurice. He was the fifth child of a family of ten of Thomas Desaulniers and Alphonsine Caron. In 1911 he migrated, along with most of his family, to Lafond.



Even in winter, race horses have to train. Albert Desaulniers with the best pacer he ever owned, "Battle Boy".

The voyage was by train to Vegreville and then by stage coach to Duvernay. There the coach had to turn around as the river ice was starting to break up. Everyone crossed the river on foot carrying luggage and furnishings. Once in Brosseau, the family was met by Elie Lafrenière, brother-in-law of grandfather and Uncle Lucien Desaulniers, who had come with wagons from Lafond, anticipating the ice breakup.

Albert worked on the family farm until 1917 when he joined the Canadian Army Service Corps as an ammunition truck driver. Upon his discharge in 1918 he went to Calgary Vocational School and took courses in welding and auto mechanics. Shortly after graduation, he teamed up with Dick Venne and started running mail and passengers between Vegreville and St. Paul. In the summer they used a relay of horses but for the winter months Dad had



How many of these smiling faces do you recognize? Yvonne Desaulniers with her class of 1922-23.



Albert and Yvonne Désaulniers with fine catch at Gold Lake. Circa (1933).

built an ingenious snow mobile which he called the "RED DEVIL". It was a Model "A" Ford with skis on the front axles and tandem axle wheels on the rear.

All this adventure was well and good for a bachelor with no family obligations but Albert had a family in mind. He decided to make use of the trade he had learned. He obtained a job with T & T Motors (Thibodeau & Trudel) as a Mechanic.

On January 30, 1923 he married Yvonne Charron, daughter of Simon Charron and Regina Gelina of St. Paul. Yvonne was born in Lowell, Massachusetts and emigrated with her parents to St. Paul in 1908. In 1921, she was employed as a teacher at the Lafond School and boarded at the Thomas Desaulniers home.

Shortly after his marriage, Albert bought the St. Paul Motors — a General Motors agency. Business prospered there until 1935 when fire destroyed the garage. Rebuilding was about half complete when a violent summer wind storm levelled the structure. This last misfortune completely drained all finances so Dad turned to other ventures. He did a lot of fur buying, fish peddling and farm work for my Grand-



The four Desaulniers girls. Roxanne with Simone in her arms and Aline standing in front of Yvette.

father Charron. He was away for most of one summer with Pat Paul, driving a team of horses hitched to a Bennet wagon, conducting a census of the northern part of the province.

For very many years, Dad had two consuming hobbies — bridge and horse racing. He raised and drove his horses across the province — pacers and trotters — and won many trophies.

Yvonne died in July 1939 and Albert in 1969. They left six children and twenty-eight grandchildren.

Roxanne married Fred Hammond in Whitehorse. Children: Suzanne (drowned in Yukon River, 1954), Lenore, Jacqueline, Robert, Terrance, Suzanne Lynne, Michael, Richard and Lee.

George married Alice Kreklaw in Vancouver. Children: Wayne, Kimball and Russell.

Marcel married Bernice Ferguson in Winnipeg. Children: Jory, Jean-Paul, Michael, Thomas, Nicole and David.

Yvette married James Cameron in Vancouver. Children: Lorraine, Jane and Heather. James died in 1971 and Yvette married Kurt Raschpichler in 1978.

Aline married Albert Pratch in St. Paul. Children: Louise, Linda, Simone, Suzanne and Darren.

Simone, who was adopted at birth by Noel and Clemence Lafrance, married Allan Marshall at Fort Kent. Children: Trent and Jana.

ANTHONY DESAULNIERS

by Germain Desaulniers

Anthony is ninth of the ten children of Thomas Desaulniers. His mother was the former Alphon-sine Caron. The family left Shawinigan Falls, P.Q. in April of 1910 when he was 8 years old.

They traveled by train to Vegreville where they boarded the St. Paul Stage Coach, but only as far as Brosseau, since the river ice was breaking up. They crossed the Saskatchewan part way on foot and part way by row boat, and were met on the far side by Elie Lafrenière, who brought them to Lafond.

The first Desaulniers homestead was four miles south east of Lafond, then in 1916 they bought the quarter section of land across the road from the Lafond Catholic Church.

Anthony married Germaine Bussiere, daughter of Oliva Bussiere and Caselie Toutant on November 27, 1928.

They farmed two miles north west of Lafond until 1935, when they moved into the Hamlet of Lafond, where they operated a General Store and a Trucking Firm.

Anthony was the unofficial barber of Lafond at .25¢ a haircut, if the customer had it.

They have two children;

Angèle married Laurent Duchesneau in 1948 and now owns and manages Angèle Styles in St. Paul.



Taken 1968 — 40th Wedding Anniversary, Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Desaulniers with children and grandchildren. Seated L to R: Laurent Duchesneau, his wife Angele (nee Desaulniers), Mrs. Germaine Desaulniers, Anthony Desaulniers, Mrs. Laurette Desaulniers (nee Daigle) and Germain Desaulniers.

Germain married Laurette Daigle in 1953 and is now the General Manager of Caisse Populaire Credit Union in St. Paul.

There are now 12 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren.

Anthony joined the Canadian Army in 1941, and received an honorable discharge in 1944, after serving in Canada and England.

He used his Army credits to obtain a barber's certificate, and stayed with the trade until his retirement.

They still live in the house which they purchased in 1946.

Of the ten children born to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Désaulniers, there are only four surviving: Mrs. Flore Fouquette-Maillardville, B.C., Joseph of St. Albert, plus René and Anthony of St. Paul.



Mrs. Thomas (Alphonsine) Desaulniers — 1922.



Anthony Desaulniers and his bride November 27, 1928.

FAMILY GROUP RECORD

HUSBAND	Armand Desautels	Occupation	Service Centre Attendant
Born	March 13, 1923	Place	105

Born	MARCH 13 1923	Place	LAFONG ALA.
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Chr. LAFOND, ALTA MARCH 1925 Place

Marr. MARGUERITE SANCHE Place St. Paul Alta. Dec. 27, 1975

Died	Place
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Bur.	Place
	Place

Father Rene Desaulniers Mother Frederica Gervetto

Other Wives EVA BERGERON

WIFE MARGUERITE SANCHE Occupation Reg. Nursing Assistant
Born 1-17-1928

Born June 17, 1928 Place MARCELIN ILL. REG. NURSING ASSISTANT.

Chr.	June 1928	Place	MARCELIN WASH.
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Died	Place

Bur.	Place
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Father Gedeon GASTON SANCHE Mother Lorena WILLIAMS

Other Husbands L. MARKWART

Children	Sex	When Born When Died	Where Born Where Died	Marriage Date & Place To Whom
1 Judith Ann	F	AUG 10 1949	SASKATOON SASK	DONALD BORENFOHR ST ALBERT, ALTA 1980
2 Faye Ellen	F	JULY 8 1951	SASKATOON SASK	DONALD VENABLES SASKATOON SASK 1970
3 ROBERT	M	OCT 16 1952	WETASKIWIN ALTA	SUZANNE ADAMSON EDMONTON ALTA 1972
4 Terrence	M	OCT 11 1953	MELFORT SASK	LAURIE PRODAHL SASKATOON SASK 1976
5 Brenda	F	OCT 2 1959	EDMONTON ALTA	ADOPTED BY ARMAND IN 1976
6				
7 Land bought		1937-	N.W 27-56-10	
8		39	N.E. 20-56-10	
9		47	N.W 19-56-10	
10		52	5 1/2 29-56-10	
11		52	N.E 21-56-10	
12		54	N.W 22-56-10	
13				
14				
15				

Sources of Information

Other Marriages

ORDER OF DATA

NAME: John Henry BROWN

PLACE: Bramley, Hampshire, England

DATE: 2 September, 1832

BIENVENUE A WELCOME TO DESAULNIERS'

HOME COMING '80



DESAULNIERS HOMECOMING — In this picture are some of the family of Thomas Desaulniers, Mrs. Germaine Desaulniers (whose husband Anthony was hospitalized at the time), Mr. and Mrs. Rene Desaulniers (St. Paul), Mr. and Mrs. Jos Desaulniers (Edmonton), Mrs. Marie Louise Desaulniers (wife of Lucien Desaulniers — deceased), Mrs. Flore Fouquette (nee Desaulniers) from Vancouver. Deceased are Adrian, Richard, Albert, Marie-Louise Côté (Desaulniers), Beatrice Lefebvre (Desaulniers).

It was in 1911 that Thomas Desaulniers and his family from Shawinigan, P.Q. settled in the Lafond area.

A gathering of some of the descendants took place at the Credit Union Camp on the weekend of July 18th, 1980.

A total of about 500 came; some to renew acquaintances and some to meet for the first time. It was a busy weekend indeed, as the weather permitted ball games, horseshoes, a bonfire, singing and dancing to the music of Maurice Harvey, but most of all visiting. Ages ranged from 5 weeks to 91 years. A good time was had by all who came from St. Boniface, Man. to Victoria, B.C., also many areas in between.

LUCIEN DESAULNIERS

by Gilberte Neveu



Mrs. Marie Louise Desaulniers and her brother, Father Josephat Hamelin, in St. Paul — 1959.

My father, Lucien, son of Thomas Desaulniers and Alphonsine Caron was born February 28, 1891, in Trois Rivières (Three Rivers) Quebec. He came to Lafond, Alberta, in 1909, with his parents and family.

My mother, Marie Louise Hamelin, daughter of Xavier Hamelin and Celine Landry, was born March 8, 1891 in Buckingham, Quebec (near Ottawa). She finished Grade 12 in the parish school run by the Grey Nuns. Upon graduating, she worked in a store for seven years while living with her parents.

My grandmother Hamelin passed away in May, 1914. After her death, my grandfather and his daughter, Marie Louise, came West. My uncle, Reverend Josephat Hamelin, was parish priest at



The Lucien Desaulniers Family: at Golden Wedding Anniversary — 1965. L to R: Front row: Gaston, Mr. and Mrs. Lucien Desaulniers, Simone Neveu. Back row: Laurette Lavoie, Gilberte Neveu, Solange Newby, Georgette Peterson.

Lafond at that time. While visiting there, she met Lucien Desaulniers, who lived across the road from the rectory. They were married November, 1915, and lived with my grandfather Desaulniers until a house was built on the homestead S.E. 29-56-10-W4. They moved into their home in 1917.

Grandfather Hamelin returned to Quebec in 1922 and died shortly after. Father Hamelin was transferred to St. Edouard, Alberta in 1918. In 1921, Mother went to visit him there. One evening, my father was at a neighbor's when he noticed a fire at his place. He rushed home but could not save the house. It was completely destroyed. Immediately, the neighbors helped to build a habitable shelter where the family lived as they finished it into a home in 1922. Later he bought S½ 27-56-11-W4.

There were eight children born to my mother and father. Twin girls died at birth. The rest of us attended school in Lafond, married and left home. Dad sold the farm to Camille Robinson in 1968, purchased a house in St. Paul, where he lived until his death on August 28, 1970. At his funeral the

Requiem High Mass was celebrated by a nephew, Rev. Father Fouquette.

Shortly afterwards, in October, Mother sold the house. She is now a resident at Sunny Side Manor, St. Paul.

My sister, Simone, born July 18, 1918, married Henry Neveu, St. Paul, has 7 children; Albert living in Vancouver, B.C.; Lilianne married Albert Masse R.C.A.F., lives in Winnipeg, has three children; Dennis lives in Dawson Creek; Marcella married Robert (Bob) Robinson, great-grandson of Edmond Hector Brosseau, founder of Brosseau, Alberta, lives in Fort McMurray where he is an engineer with Syncrude. They have two sons, Wade and Brian; Roland, R.C.M.P., Calgary, Louis, Edmonton, pastry cook with Safeway.

Laurette, married Alphonse Lavoie and lives in St. Paul. She has 5 children: Benoit, Lionel, Fernand, Diane (died), Suzanne.

Myself, Gilberte born January 21, 1924, married Raymond Neveu of St. Paul. We have three children: Louise, Chairman of the Board of Farm Credit



House on the homestead in 1922 after the first house was destroyed by fire in 1921.



Mr. Lucien Desaulniers and granddaughter, Louise Neveu, 1950.

Corporation in Ottawa, and is married to Corporal Vic Hultquist, a sport announcer for the CBC in Ottawa. Paul is in the RCMP in Ottawa, Michel, U. of A. Graduate as a Business Analyst.

Georgette was born May 7, 1926, married Bill Peterson, and has 4 children, Marjorie Hebert, Deborah, Kenneth and Bradley.

Solange, May 23, 1930, married Bob Newby, lives in Edmonton. Her family consists of Jocelyn, twins Darrel and Russel, Michelle, Roxanne.

Gaston, my only brother, was born February 8, 1932, married Lil Chrapko and lives in Edmonton. They have Linda Yurham, Lorraine and Leslie.

RAYMOND AND RITA DESAULNIERS

by Raymond and Rita

Raymond, son of Rene and Florence Desaulniers (nee Guenette), was born in Lafond. He attended Lafond School and lived on his parent's farm until he married.

On July 8, 1952, Raymond married Rita, daughter of Eugene and Rose Foisy (nee Malo). Rita was born in the Foisy district on her parent's farm. She attended Big Fish Lake (Foisy) School.

After their marriage they farmed in the Lafond district for approximately twenty-two years. In 1974, they sold their farm and moved to St. Paul, where they are presently living.

They have a family of four children. Emile, married Karen Atkins, and they have a son Philippe. Paul, Aline, Carmen.



Raymond and Rita Desaulniers and family. Back row: L-R: Emile, Aline, Paul. Front row: Raymond, Carmen, Rita.

THE RENÉ DÉSAULNIERS FAMILY

by the family

René Désaulniers, the eldest son, was born April 24, 1889. He worked as a labourer for the town of Shawinigan, Quebec, during the summer and as a lumberjack in the winter. In 1907, at the age of 18, a friend suggested that he borrow a horse from his father, who had quite a few; the friend would buy one and together they could go into the woods and make a fortune. René was given one for the winter. When he returned in the spring he had \$200.00, a lot of money in those days. His mother expected him to hand over his earnings for the upkeep of the home but René had other plans. He would buy a ticket for the west — to realize a dream.

Alphonsine was opposed to his departure for a place so far away and tried to discourage him. She even went to the parish priest who was also against him as he thought that René would soon forget his mother tongue and religion. René told his mother that this was not likely to happen.



Mr. and Mrs. René Désaulniers 50th wedding anniversary.

Despite his mother's disapproval, he left in 1907, but kept in touch with his family in Shawinigan. In her letters Alphonsine would continually ask when he was coming for a visit but the fare was \$47.00 — a lot of money at the time.

In the fall of 1908, he went back to Quebec to work for the winter months as a lumberjack. He came back in the spring of 1909 with his brother, Lucien. They travelled as far as Vegreville by train. There they took the stage to Brosseau where they were met by Elie Lafrenière, who later was to become his uncle. From there they went to Lafond, where René filed for a homestead in the Lafond area — N.E. ¼ 22-56-10-W4.

As René had no money left, he went to Spruce Grove, Alberta, where he rented land from Edward Guenette. Land rental was \$3.00 per acre and wheat was selling for \$2.00 and oats for .50¢ per bushel. While there, René met Edward Guenette's daughters, one of whom really caught his eye. Evidently Florence was attracted to him also, but there was a problem in communication; René knew only French and Florence knew only English. This did not deter René and so during the courtship, Florence taught René to speak and read English. Throughout all this, love blossomed. On April 6, 1915 René married Florence, whose parents were Edward Guenette and Rose Beaudry. They continued farming in Spruce Grove. In 1917 or 1918, their rented land was being sold, so René and Florence and their family, now increased by two daughters, Lucienne and Jeanne, came out to the homestead in Lafond. There they lived in a little log house for a few years.

René started farming on his homestead and then mom started working in the field, leaving the

housework to the girls, who were now old enough to do so.

When Armand, the oldest son, was 14, he started working in the field, relieving mom. As the boys grew older, dad purchased more land until, when he retired in 1969, he owned eight quarters. This land was worked with three outfits of horses until 1948. With more and more land to cultivate, a tractor was needed to be able to get the work done quicker than with horses and so in 1948 a tractor was bought. A sawmill was also purchased enabling dad and the boys with the help of some neighbors, to saw the logs that had been cut in clearing the land, into lumber needed for new buildings. As a result in 1921, a new house was built by Michel Laframboise. It is still standing and in use. A big barn, for twelve horses was built in 1930 and a lean-to, housing eight cows, was added later.

In 1949, dad bought his first car, a Studebaker, which was his pride and joy.

In 1954, mom and dad, took a trip to Eastern Canada, to visit relatives and for René to see his former home. He hadn't been there since 1909, so found many changes. Nonetheless it was a very happy trip.

In 1963, due to mom's failing health, dad sold most of his land, but remained on the old homestead for another six years.

In 1969, he had an accident in which his car was wrecked. He could not, due to his age and this accident, renew his driving licence, so he and mom moved to the Sunnyside Manor, a Senior Citizens' Home in St. Paul.

On October 17, 1972, mom passed away, after a long illness.

During his years on the farm, dad was involved in local and municipal politics. He was a member of the Lafond School Board for some ten years, a councillor of the Municipality of Champlain for nine



Four Generations 1981. René Désaulniers (91); Raymond Désaulniers (54); Emile Désaulniers (28); Philip Désaulniers (9 months).

years and a church trustee of the Lafond Roman Catholic Church for many years.

In December 1975, dad was remarried to Mrs. Eva Bergeron and both are at Sunnyside Manor.

At this time, February 1981, dad is still active, walking to town several blocks from the Senior Citizens' Home where he is retired, three or four times a week — weather permitting.

Mom and dad had eleven children, nine of whom are still living.

Lucienne born December 1st., 1915, married Joe Pigeau in 1937. They had 7 children: Lorraine, Laurent, Irene, Leo, Ernest, Marcel, and Victor. They are living in Grande Prairie, Alberta.

Jeanne born July 24, 1917, married Joseph Alex Brosseau on June 10, 1944. They had a family of seven: Marguerite, Rosaline, Joe, Charlie, Cecile, Jeannette and Bernard. Jeanne was killed in a car accident and Joe is living at the Youville Home, in St. Albert, Alberta. The family is in British Columbia.



René Désaulniers Family. Seated: Noella Brosseau, Florence and René Désaulniers, Lucienne Pigeau, Standing: Robert, Jeanne Brosseau, Annette Gagné, Raymond, Fernande Journault, Armand, and Helen Marceniuk.

Adèle, born in 1918, died at 3 months of age.

Annette, born in 1920, married Argé Gagné, July 3, 1940 and are retired in St. Paul, Alberta.

Noella, born December 13, 1921, married Nick Hrushka on April 24, 1946. Nick was killed in an electrical accident May 10, 1950. Noella married Maurice Brosseau on June 10, 1952. They have a family of eight: Adèle, Therese, Roger, Jocelyn, Maurice, David, Monique (deceased) and Tommy. They are living in Brosseau, Alberta.

Armand born March 13, 1925, married Margaret Markworth, on December 26, 1976.

Raymond born January 28, 1927, married Rita Foisy, July 8, 1952. They had a family of four: Emile, Paul, Aline, Carmen. They live in St. Paul, Alberta.

Fernande born November 20, 1929, married Jules Journault on June 21, 1948. They had 12 children: Albert, Suzanne, Louise, Claire, Mariline, Lucille, Normand, Eugene, Conrad, Raymond, Ronald, and Cheryl. The family live on the farm in the Lafond area.

Robert born October 3, 1931, married Alma Foisy on April 23, 1957. They have two boys: Leo and Eugene. They are living in Edmonton.

Lorraine born 1934 died in 1936 — 18 months old.

Helene born April 7, 1942, married William Marceniuk, April 15, 1961. They have 2 boys: Roy and Gary, and live in Elk Point.

ROBERT AND ALMA DESAULNIERS

by Alma Desaulniers

Robert and Alma (Foisy) Desaulniers were formerly from Lafond but are now living in Edmonton since 1958.

Robert was born in Lafond on Oct. 3, 1931, the son of Mr. René Désaulniers and Florence Guenette. He has been working for the city of Edmonton for 15 years.

Alma was born Feb. 7, 1937, daughter of Mr. Eugene Foisy and Rose Malo. Robert and I were married in Lafond Church on April 23, 1957. We have 2 sons, Leo and Eugene. Both have finished school.



Wedding of Alma and Robert Désaulniers. Front row: Alma, Robert. Second row: Claire Parent, Hubert Foisy. Third row: Eugene and Rose Foisy, bride's parents. Florence and René Désaulniers, groom's parents. Taken on steps of Lafond Church — April 23, 1957.

Leo was born in Edmonton Jan. 4, 1961. He works for a sheet and metal company. Eugene was born in Edmonton, Feb. 16, 1963. He now is working for Delton Cabinets. They will be both taking their apprenticeship, each in his field of work.

Alma is employed at Alberta Hospital as a garment worker. She has been working there for four years. We own our home and plan to retire here in Edmonton.

THE THOMAS DESAULNIERS FAMILY

by his granddaughters

In 1912, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Desaulniers with their family came west and homesteaded in the Lac Bellevue area. This land was later taken over by their son Adrien, at which time, the father, Thomas, bought a quarter section immediately across from the St. Bernard Church in Lafond. The family slowly drifted away, but Mr. and Mrs. Thomas

Desaulniers lived in their large log house until their death. Then their youngest son, Joseph made this his home.

Thomas Desaulniers had married Alphonsine Caron in 1886. Their children were:

Beatrice married Jim Lefebvre in 1907.

Rene married Florence Guenette on April 6, 1915.

Flore married Alderic Fouquette on November 6, 1917.

Dulice married Pierre Cote on July 24, 1917.

Adrien married Yvonne Guenette on April 6, 1915.

Lucien married Marie-Louise Hamlin on November 6, 1916.

Anthony married Germaine Bussiere on November 27, 1928.

Richard married Elizabeth Leroux — ?

Albert (1894-1970) married Annie Goudreaux on October 22, 1929.



The Thomas Desaulniers Family. Front row: Florence Desaulniers, holding Jeanne, René Desaulniers with Lucienne, Grandfather, Thomas with Adrienne and grandmother Thomas Desaulniers with Jos kneeling, Beatrice Lefebvre with Rocque, Alice kneeling and Emile Lefebvre standing. Second row: Flore Desaulniers, Albert, Alderic Fouquette, Marie-Louise (Desaulniers) Cote, holding Julien; Pierre Cote, Marie-Louise (Hamelin) Desaulniers; Lucien her husband holding Simone; Yvonne Desaulniers (Guenette); holding Maurice; her husband Adrien; Great-grandmother Beaudry. Back row: Anthony, Richard, Grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Fouquette; Louise and Elie Lafrenière — she was sister to Thomas Desaulniers; Victor Caron, brother to grandmother Thomas Desaulniers; Mr. and Mrs. Edward Guenette; Florence's parents, Grandfather Beaudry.

WILFRID DÉSAULNIERS STORY

by Juliana Désaulniers

Wilfrid René Désaulniers, son of Adrien Désaulniers and Yvonne Guenette, was born in Lafond, the third of a family of ten children. Before he was born, his brother Maurice just older than he, died, and somehow the name Maurice was kept. To this day some still call him Maurice, though he was christened Wilfrid and never signed otherwise. He attended a one-room school in Lac Bellevue and worked on his father's farm and for other farmers. In 1942, he was called to the army and did his basic training in Camrose and advance training in Calgary. After six months he had a leave, as he had to help his father on the farm.

I, daughter of Joseph Journault and Marie Anna Belanger, was born in Lafond, the fourth child of a family of six. We were married in Lafond, on November 9th, 1943 and resided on his dad's farm for four years, in a log shack. During that time, we had three children. We rented one quarter of land and lived there for awhile and moved again on other rented land where our fourth child was born. We bought our first quarter section N.W.¼ 28-56-10-W4th and moved there in the spring of 1951. We purchased, after some years, two adjacent quarters and farmed there for 23 years. Six of our children were born there. We never had indoor plumbing and only had the power in 1955. We kept milk cows and hogs, as we had a lot of help with our six boys and four girls. One year, we had seventy farrowings, the piggies sold as weaners, and all the work was done by hand.

Our children all went to Lafond School until the High School was closed. For a couple of years, we had eight at school. Wilfred was interested in keeping our school and was on the board for some years. When the Credit Union was formed in 1943, he served first on the Credit Committee, then on all the other committees and was President also. Altogether he served for more than 25 years. I had Mrs. Thérèse Thérout then (Miss Thérèse Bélisle) as my teacher in my last year of school in Lafond. I note here that the year our first child started school, she was back teaching in Lafond and all my family were taught under her christian guidance. I joined the Ladies of Ste. Anne when it was first started in Lafond, took a weaving course, a few sewing courses and one in home nursing. I was kept busy keeping the family clothed, as I did most of the sewing. I always liked to sing in the church choir, especially the masses we practiced for Christmas and Easter.

Henri, our oldest son, after completing grade eleven, went out working. He took a course at Nait in heavy duty machines and worked for the County of St. Paul No. 19 for twelve years. He is now employed by the town of St. Paul and his sport is curling. He married Irene Looy of St. Brides in 1969 and they have four children.

Rita after graduating from grade twelve in Lafond School, went to College St. Jean and University of Alberta, where she received her Bachelor of Education. She taught one year in Lafond School. She married Henk Hof of Grande Prairie, in 1968 and they have three children. They make their home in Medicine Hat and are both teaching there.



Wilfrid Désaulniers Family —
1980.



Wilfrid Désaulniers Family, 25th Wedding Anniversary — 1968. Back row L. to R.: René, André, Denise (Jean), Bernard. Seated L. to R.: Rita (Hof), Juliana, Madeleine, Wilfrid and Henri. Seated below L. to R.: Gerald (twin), Claire, and Guy (twin).

Denise left school early and helped on the farm. She was employed at Brosseau Department Store in St. Paul as cashier for a few months. In 1965, she married Aurèle Jean of Lafond and they have two children. They live on a farm in Lafond.

André graduated from grade twelve at St. Paul's Racette School in June, 1968 and has been employed with the Alberta Wheat Pool since July 1968. He has been in quite a few locations and now is agent in Two Hills. He married Rosalie Miskiw of Two Hills in 1975 and they have two sons. He has been involved in hockey, first making the Juvenile Canadiens, for one year. This team won the Provincial Juvenile B Cup against Fairview. He has played for the St. Paul Rockets, the Bonnyville Pontiacs and these last years for the Two Hills Eagles.

René was from the first graduating class of the St. Paul Regional High School. He took employment in Edmonton, then came back to work for the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce in St. Paul. He has been transferred from Edmonton, to Fort McMurray and then to Yellowknife, and is now in Edmonton. He was also involved in hockey and playing with the St. Paul Junior B Canadiens. They won in 1971 the Provincial Championship over Grande Prairie Athletics. While in Yellowknife, his team came to play against Fort McMurray. They called it "Gold vs. Black". In 1978, he married Patricia Garland of Oakville, Ontario and they have a daughter.

Bernard graduated for St. Paul Regional High School and has been with the banks also. He is now in Edmonton. He likes travelling and once took six months off to go to Europe. He spent one month in Iran, visiting two of his uncles who were working and living there with their families. At another time, he travelled in U.S.A. with a friend for four months. Last year he spent three weeks in Florida.

Guy, one of the twins, quit school early and worked as heavy duty machine operator for the County of St. Paul and different construction companies. He is now employed in Edmonton.

Gerald, other twin, graduated from St. Paul Regional High School and took jobs on the road construction taking him to different parts of the province. Guy and Gerald, the twins, joined the R.C.A.C. SQN. 782 of Two Hills and were active for four years. They had the opportunity to control Hercules, Gliders and Buffalo airplanes. They took survival courses, hunter's training and attended summer camps. In a Wake-A-Thon to raise funds for their squadron, Guy won for the most hours awake, forty-four hours.

Madeleine took her grade nine in Racette Junior High in St. Paul. That year she was crowned Alpha House Queen of Racette Snow Carnival. She took grade ten in the St. Paul Regional High School. She received an award for student of the year in Academics. After graduating from grade twelve, she attended the University of Alberta and received her B. Ed. at the Spring Convocation of 1980. She is now in her first year of teaching at the Immaculate Conception School in Peace River, Alberta.

Claire is in her graduating year at St. Paul Regional High School and plans to go into Education at the University of Alberta. Last summer holidays she worked in Yellowknife and is now employed, part time, at the new St. Paul Co-op self serve gas bar. Her sports are badminton and fast-ball.

As none of the boys were interested in farming, we sold our farm in 1973. We had a house built in St. Paul and moved in April of 1974. In May of that year Wilfrid started working at the St. Paul Co-op in the petroleum center and has now been on the gas delivery truck for three years.

WILFRID DÉSAULNIERS FAMILY TREE

Name	Date of Birth	Date of Marriage
Wilfrid Désaulniers	May 16, 1920	
Juliana Marie Alice Désaulniers (née Journault)	Apr. 6, 1922	Nov. 9, 1943
Henri Adrien Désaulniers	Feb. 21, 1945	
Rita Marie Hof (née Désaulniers)	June 22, 1946	
Denise Jeannette Jean (née Désaulniers)	Sept. 24, 1947	
André Philippe Désaulniers	Feb. 10, 1950	
René Joseph Désaulniers	Jan. 4, 1953	
Bernard Jean-Charles Désaulniers	Apr. 15, 1954	
Guy Argé Désaulniers	Dec. 23, 1955	
Gerald Pierre Désaulniers	Dec. 23, 1955	
Madeleine Juliette Désaulniers	Jan. 1, 1958	
Claire Rita Marie Désaulniers	Oct. 30, 1963	
Henri's Family:		
Irene Alice Désaulniers (née Looy)	Feb. 26, 1948	Aug. 30, 1969
Gregory Allen Désaulniers	Dec. 11, 1970	
Jocelyne Alicia Désaulniers	July 24, 1974	
Melanie Anita Désaulniers	Mar. 13, 1979	
Nadine Andrea Desaulniers	Apr. 29, 1981	
Rita's Family:		
Henricus Johannus Hof	Dec. 25, 1944	August 10, 1968
Suzanne Michelle Hoff	Oct. 3, 1969	
Michelle Renee Hoff	Dec. 28, 1972	
Fraser Alan Hof	Feb. 5, 1976	
Denise's Family:		
Aurèle Adelard Jean	Feb. 9, 1944	Aug. 14, 1965
Ronald Hector Jean	May 8, 1966	
Lorraine Juliana Jean	Mar. 29, 1969	
Andre's Family:		
Rosalie Pearl Désaulniers (née Miskiwi)	Nov. 25, 1954	Aug. 9, 1975
Sheldon Dale Désaulniers	Aug. 30, 1978	
Christopher Todd Désaulniers	Aug. 20, 1980	
Rene's Family:		
Patricia Louise Désaulniers (née Garland)	Mar. 7, 1953	Aug. 5, 1978
Allison Garland Désaulniers	June 23, 1980	

DEVENNEY, JAMES AND SARAH AGNES

by the family

James and Sarah Agnes, were married in 1907 at Strabane County, Tyrone Ireland. James served in the Imperial Army in England where he was wounded in battle. They emigrated to Canada in 1907, bringing with them their two youngest daughters, Annie and Nellie, Agnes the oldest daughter being married stayed behind in Ireland. Annie married Steve McCauley, They had nine children. Nellie married Ernie Burvin. They had two children.

James and Sarah Agnes purchased a quarter section of land from the Soldier Settlement Board, in St. Bride's district. They farmed this land for 10 years or more. When James was confined to a wheelchair, with the help of hired men, he continued farming for a few more years. He sold his land to Jack Connor in the late 1950's. They had



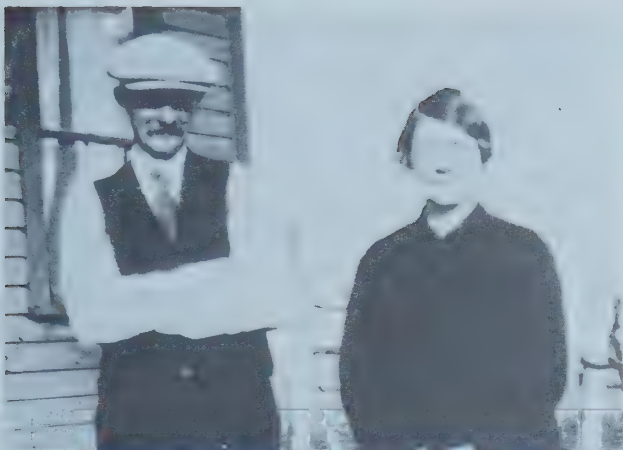
James and Sarah Devvenney and grandson.

made arrangements to stay on in the house. James passed away in June of 1959. Sarah remained in the home alone, until she went to live with her granddaughter, Eileen and family in Edmonton. Sarah has now passed away.

THE PATRICK DEVLIN FAMILY IRISH IMMIGRANTS

by Arthur Devlin — 1926

After sailing from Belfast, Ireland, we arrived in St. John's, New Brunswick, on the 19th of April 1926. We boarded a special Settlers Train to Winnipeg. From there, we took a train across the prairies to Edmonton, where we again took a freight train to St. Paul which took all day. We finally arrived at 8 p.m. on the 26th of April. We stayed overnight in what was then the St. Paul Hotel. Next morning we visited the R C Church where the Racette School now stands. On Tuesday the 27th of April the Supervisor for the Soldiers Settlement Board, Mr. W.J. Francis drove us to our farm at Lafond in an open side touring car. It was about seventeen miles. On our arrival at the farm, our trunks were already waiting for us at the door. They had been delivered by a Mr. Foisy who had a mail contract with the Post Office. We were somewhat surprised to see the yard covered with weeds. It was overrun with gophers also. We thought they were weasels. It was quite a change from the green grass we had left in Ireland. Before Mr. Francis left, we asked him for our address for all we knew then was that we were in Alberta. Well the Devlin family had arrived, all eight of us, my Father Patrick, my



Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Devlin taken in 1929 or 30, a few years after their arrival in Alberta in 1926.

Mother Margaret, three girls, Nellie, Josephine and Anne the youngest and three boys, Arthur, Joseph and Antony.

Our first Sunday we had a ride to church with our neighbour, Albert Poirier. As we listened to the sermon in French, we wondered why the priest spoke so much about St. Paul, our closest town. We discovered later to our amusement that he was talking about St. Paul, the Apostle. The second Sunday was a day to remember, my parents decided it was the right time to pay a visit to the Parish Priest at the Rectory and lo and behold, Father advised us we should move out of the Parish. They were disillusioned. They were determined they would be where we could get to Mass every Sunday, not just every other Sunday, as was the situation with other areas. We went over to the general store where Mr. Leblanc and his wife and a teacher Mr. Daly persuaded my parents to remain. After all they had specified when applying to immigrate that they wanted into a Catholic Community with a church and school and despite the fact that we didn't speak French, we had what to us was more important: a church and school. So we stayed.

Our first Monday at school was something else when we met our teacher, Mr. Courtemanche. We had been used to lady teachers. We found it hard to understand why he conducted the English classes in French, the only time it was in English was when the School Inspector, Mr. Chrispo visited us. I recall sharing a desk with Yvon Lord who was quite an artist. He showed me how to draw faces and enlightened me on a lot of subjects. The most exciting news he had for me was that school would be finished by the 30th of June and for a whole two months. I looked forward to getting away from this teacher. The boys at school encouraged us to play baseball. By the time school started again in September we were becoming a little more familiar with Canadian ways, nevertheless about the 15th of September we woke up to a snow storm in full force.

Our Dad was working at Flat Lake so Mother decided to keep us home from school that day, as we had heard stories in Ireland about people being frozen to death in Canada, so why take chances with six of us little ones. When we went to school the next day we were teased about being scared of the snow. One day in early winter there was a pound sale of stray horses at Lafond. My Dad purchased a little grey pony for ten dollars. He wanted us to learn to ride horseback and so become Canadians. This learning process resulted in many a sore behind. Our next episode was the 24th of November, our teacher boiled a pot of syrup. It was a celebration of the feast of St. Catherine which they called the "Cabane à Sucre". We found the Christmas Season delightful with Midnight Mass and the Church decorated. I can still hear the sleigh bells ringing in the darkness of the night. On the 15th of January, we had what they called a chinook. Of course we thought Spring had arrived but sadly we discovered we had to wait another three months!

Springtime was very exciting as we were getting our two teams of horses and other livestock and



The Devlin Children in 1929 or 30. Tony, now deceased, Josie, Mrs. Enis McGonigal of St. Bride, Alberta and Ann, Mrs. Ben Poitras of Edmonton, Alberta, at the back is Nellie.

machinery to start farming. We boys would have loved to have stayed on the farm instead of going to school. The end of June came again so another school year ended. We were now accustomed to the Canadian way of living and were able to converse in French, thus ended our first year in Canada. From then on life became a little easier, we became less homesick as we got to understand people better and they accepted us as neighbours and friends. We lived another eighteen years in Lafond. It had its influence, as four of our family married French Canadians and two of us Irish. Looking back I can feel only gratitude to our parents. They made the break with our homeland while at the same time they brought their traditions with them. They practised what they preached, I pray that we will imitate them by following in their dear footsteps, which I believe led them to God.

Arthur Devlin, "Chez Nous", 7904 - 43A Avenue, Edmonton.

THE DOHERTY FAMILY

by the family

James and Martha Doherty emigrated to Canada in 1927 with expectations of a better future for their six children. Recruited, along with 51 other families from Ireland, Scotland and England, by Fr. McDonnell of the British Soldiers Settlement Board, they were going to the land of opportunity.

Leaving their home in Limavady, Co. Derry, Ireland, they made a rough 9-day sea voyage on the Madagama and landed in Quebec, June 26, 1927. With their area of settlement predetermined, they travelled with the McCools, Barney O'Neills, Frank O'Neills and Devlins by train on a 5 day journey across Canada to St. Paul and from there by truck to the area now known as St. Brides. The date was July 1, 1927.



Doherty Family, James and Martha Doherty, Bernadette, John, Roger, Gertrude, Josephine, and Winnifred standing.

Allotted ¼ section of land, they arrived to find construction of a house and barn underway and 40 acres broken. The first few years the Joe McManus, Hugh Quinn, Robert Loque and Doherty families bought and shared farm equipment working together to sow and harvest the crops.

With crops in, the men went out to find paying jobs. James Doherty went to work on a larger farm near Vegreville and on road construction near Whitecourt for one year, then concentrated his efforts on breaking the rest of his land.

The children: Roger, Winnifred, Josephine, Bernadette, Gertrude and John could not attend school for the first year until the church was completed as school was held in the basement.

Social life for the family consisted of singsongs with the neighbours, card-playing and dances held about every two weeks in the school with the ladies bringing the lunch.

Martha Doherty was also elected the football (soccer) uniform manufacturer and spent many hours sewing short pants out of old flour bags that the boys brought her.

In 1929 the two older girls Winnifred and Josephine went to work as domestic help in Edmonton under the guidance of Fr. McIntyre.

Then, as a result of cataracts, James Doherty went blind in 1939.

Winnifred married Angus MacPherson in Edmonton on September 14, 1938. They settled in Clover Bar with Angus working for Ottowell Coal Mines.

Josephine married Bill McLaughlin on Oct. 30, 1940 and settled in Clover Bar as well.

A double wedding followed with Gertrude marrying William Logue and Bernadette marrying Andrew Dolan on Oct. 15, 1941. Bernadette and Andrew remained on the family farm, later settling on their own land in St. Brides, while Gertrude and William settled in Clover Bar with William being employed at Swifts Packing Plant.

GEORGE AND ELLEN DOLAN

by Michael Dolan

In 1927, George and Ellen emigrated to Canada, with their five children, Michael, John, Andrew, Brendan, and Mary Alice. Another daughter, Cathleen passed away when twenty months old, and was buried in Castlederg Cemetery, County Tyrone, Ireland.

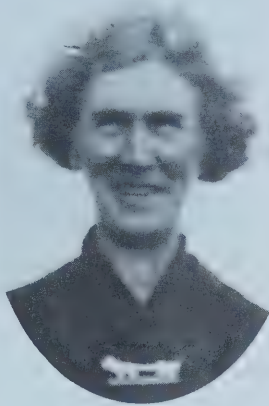
In the latter part of May 1927, the family took a train from Castlederg to Belfast, then a small boat to get to the ship Lettica. Supper was served as soon as we entered the ship, which we really enjoyed. We arrived in St. Paul, Alberta, June 8, 1927.

The Soldier Settlement Board had bought a portion of land from the Cree Indians of Saddle Lake Reserve, ten miles west of St. Paul to place the

British settlers on. My dad bought one quarter section, and one half of a quarter section, total acres 240. This is how the tax notice read; N.E. $\frac{1}{2}$ of N.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ section 4, 58-11-4 80 acres and S.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ section 4, 58-11-4 160 acres. The buildings were on the latter portion, house 21 X 21, barn 20 X 20, granary 16 X 24. Also a well was dug 46 feet deep, by Jack Sauls, of Owlseye, and Peter Campbell of St. Brides.



George Dolan.



Ellen Dolan.

The British government gave a \$1500.00 grant for livestock, machinery and furniture. Dad bought three cows, four horses, a wagon, sled and harness, a binder, a breaking plow, a cookstove, table and four chairs, three complete beds and one dresser. The Soldier Settlement Board had a field supervisor, Mr. John Francis, who was stationed in St. Paul, Alberta. He helped the settlers spend this grant. After ten years on the farm, for those that were still here, this grant was wiped off the slate. This grant paid for a lot of things, which is hard to believe.

The Soldier Settlement Board on a package deal sold this land with 40 acres broken and disked once. Each settler signed a contract to pay yearly installments for 25 years with interest added. A receipt that your taxes were paid in full, had to go in with your land payment. Each farm had a different total price depending on the land evaluation. The total price of Dad's farm was \$4300.00 with yearly interest added to the payment.

In 1928, our first crop was a beautiful stand of wheat. In July 60 bushels to the acre was predicated. Shortly after, there was a killing frost and it dropped to 20 bushels of feed wheat, which hardly paid for the twine and threshing bill.

Also in the spring of 1928, the Dominion government, under the supervision of the Soldier Settlement Board field supervisor, placed in St. Brides three shorthorn bulls, one on Patrick McGonigal's farm, one at Robert Logue's and one at John Duffy's. Settlers brought their cows for service to these farms and paid a small fee for the upkeep of these bulls. At the same time, boys of the ages 12

to 14 years, were given a purebred weaner sow. Each boy receiving one, had to feed and take care of this sow, and show her at the fall fair which was held in St. Paul. First prize for the best registered sow was a silver cup donated by A. Dixon of the Maurice Hotel of St. Paul, Alberta. A purebred boar was placed at George Dolan's farm to be used for service along the same system as the bulls.

In 1929, we had a very good crop.

In 1930, the depression struck, and we were batted down again. Some of the settlers at this time packed up and went to find work in the city, as there was no work you could get a dollar out of. Some went back to their homeland. Those who stayed had a very rough time. Firewood was two dollars for a wagon box, cut, split and delivered in St. Paul. Hay was three to four dollars a ton delivered to St. Paul, also, we traded cordwood to the flour mill for flour.

In 1930, another son was born to George and Ellen, Francis Gerald. Dad farmed until he passed away, February 19, 1947, at the age 59 years, leaving his wife Ellen, three sons, and one daughter at home. She continued farming until receiving her old age pension, at the age of seventy years. Francis and myself, then took over the farm, Mother lived in the home until her passing June 16, 1965.

Michael, (Sam) married Lila Jones, with 5 children. John, married Maureen Kirkpatrick, they had 10 children. John passed away January 3, 1975.

Andrew, married Bernadette Doherty, they have 7 children.

Mary Alice, (Molly) married Albert Lyttle, they had 11 children. Albert passed away June 29, 1972.

Brendan, (Jimmy) married Janet Gregor, they have 4 children.

Francis, married Maureen Dolan.

MICHAEL AND LILA DOLAN

by Mike

I, Michael Dolan 12 years old came to Canada in 1927 with my parents. My Dad had purchased a farm from the Soldier Settlement Board at a place now known as St. Brides, Alberta.

My brothers and I had a great time for two months or so, trying to catch wild horses. It was open range and there were herds of horses roaming all over the place. Mosquitoes though were as big as grasshoppers, and they ate us alive.

Dad got a job with Frank Smith who lived at Foisy, Alberta. He hired a few of the settlers, as he had taken a contract to fence the outside of St. Brides, which was 4 miles east and west, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles north and south. A 3-wire fence, with posts 5 yards apart and all roadways left open. My brother John and I learned what a bucksaw was in short order. We had to saw the posts, which had been cut with an axe. The top part of the posts had to be cut

straight in order to drive them into the ground with a post maul. It was impossible to drive them if they were not cut properly. We did not receive any pay for this, but lots of hell if they were not straight. Also we were told if we didn't learn the proper way to use this machine, the bucksaw, we would be deported back to Ireland. Believe me, we wanted to stay in Canada, mosquitoes or not, we were staying here.

When the posts were finished, we got a new job filling the barn 20 X 20 with firewood 12 inches long, as we were told we would freeze to death when the winter came. Many tales were told of the winter to come, snow 10 feet high, 60 below zero and howling winds.

I stayed with my folks on the farm, until the big hail storm in 1936, when we were hailed out 100%. After this storm I went out to find work.

In about three days, I found myself in a little town called Marwayne, Alberta, where I met a farmer named Pat Hurley in Rudy Isert's garage. He told me if I hung around for a few days he would be back for me. In a few days he was back, and he gave me a job stooking and threshing. It was the luck of the Irish or my name being Dolan, I was made right at home. I worked there until freeze up and, he hired me for the next year at 50 dollars a month, starting in May up until harvest.

At the end of harvest, I returned home, and stayed for a few days. I then went north of the Beaver River to work at Ryan's Mill at Frenchman Lake. My job was cleaning the barn and around the mill, for one dollar a day including room and board.

In the spring, I returned to Pat Hurley's as agreed until freeze up again. That winter I worked for Fortunat Charron.

In April, I went to work for Ernest Belzil. I stayed with them for five years.

During the war years, I worked for Canada Packers in Edmonton.



Michael and Lila Dolan with family Donald, Richard, Sidney, Valerie Memmery taken 1968.

After this I had many different jobs. I was a livestock dealer's agent for different companies; Lorenson, Anderson, and Francon, Associate Livestock Dealers Limited. I bought horses for Frank Skarliski of Vilna, Alberta and for Morris Hurley of St. Albert Trail Edmonton, Alberta for fox meat.

Living at home, I worked part time on construction. The building of Glen Avon School, Racette School and Old Folks Home, just naming a few.

I helped my mother and younger brother on the farm until 1960, at which time I married Lila Jones, a widow with 5 children. We moved to Robert Logue's house, and farmed my mother's farm, which was across the road. In the fall of 1960, while threshing, I had a bad accident catching my hand in the elevator chain of the threshing machine. After spending 2 years taking treatments in the University Hospital in Edmonton, I was told farming was out. The doctor said I should use an axe or a mop to get the grip back in my hand.

Renting out the farm, we decided to go to Sylvan Lake, to work as janitors for a friend who owned the hotel, starting us on our janitorial career. We moved to Edmonton and Lila and I worked at the University Hospital. Lila continued working there and I went to the Separate School Board, until returning back to St. Brides in 1972.

On returning, we made many changes to the old homeplace, building on to the house and renovating the inside, and putting in electricity, water and a heating system. We had many janitor jobs in St. Paul, up until my retirement.

I am most thankful to my parents for coming to Canada. They gave their children a better chance than they ever had. I thank God for this everyday of my life.

Richard, married Shelia Benesh, now living in Ladysmith B.C., with their 2 children, Carolynn and Aaden.



won by Michael (Sam) Dolan St. Paul Agricultural Fair for best swine.

Sidney, married Shirley Innes, now living in Calgary, Alberta with their 4 children Cheryl, Richard, Kristi, and Steven.

Memmary taking her high school in St. Paul graduated in 1964. She was active in sports. In 1964 she joined the Royal Canadian Navy, served 12 years and is now living in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Donald who took some of his high school in Ashmont, is working for Canadian Francmaster Ltd., as a Field Supervisor, now living in Grande Prairie, Alberta.

Valerie whom I adopted at the age four, took most of her schooling in St. Brides and St. Paul. She graduated in 1974. She is married to Lloyd Peat, and they are now living in St. Brides, Alberta with their two children, Darcy and Vanessa.

JOSEPH ZEPHRIN DOUCET

by Claire Doucet — Simmons

Joseph was born in Saint-Maurice, Quebec on April, 4, 1869. He came to Alberta in April of 1910. He arrived in St. Paul des Metis with his pregnant wife, Lumina (Drolet) and six children, Laura, Maria, Wilfrid, Alice, Valentine and Aldea (Blanche). One child, Albert was born on Nov. 12 of 1910. Two other children, Roland and Bella, were born during the next few years.

Upon his arrival, Joseph filed for a homestead, 3 miles north of Doucet Corner. The wood he cleared on his homestead was used to build his first log house. Six years later in 1916, he sold his homestead to one of his son-in-laws, Philias Tetrault and bought the place called "Doucet Corner" from his brother, Nere Doucet, who moved to Therien where he'd bought land.

Joseph known as "Pere Jos" was to remain on the Doucet Homestead till 1936. He had broken all the land as we see it today. During those years, apart from farming, he maintained a Silver Fox



Wedding Picture of Albert and Laurette Doucet, January 29, 1929.



50th Wedding Anniversary.



Albert and Laurette Doucet Family — Standing: Bernard, Réjean —
Seated: Albert, Claire, Laurette December 23, 1967.

Ranch. In 1936, when he retired in St. Paul, he left the Doucet Homestead to his youngest son, Roland. In 1944, Joseph and Lumina celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with all their children.

Joseph Doucet died in St. Paul on May 11, 1947.

Roland remained on the old homestead till 1945. That year Albert, his older brother bought the old place.

Albert, was married on Jan. 29, 1929 to Laurette Reine Despins, born in Brosseau in 1910, daughter of Napoleon and Catherine (Lesveques) Despins in St. Paul.

Albert and Laurette's first child Laurier, born in 1931, died one week after birth. A second son, Bernard was born in Dec. 1933.

During the depression years, Albert took his family to British Columbia and worked in various lumber camps in order to survive.

In 1938, Albert leased Napoleon Letourneau's farm which he bought in 1942.

In 1939, the Doucets adopted a little girl, Claire who became their legal child three months later.

In 1945, Albert moved his family to the Doucet Homestead, five miles west of St. Paul, better known as "Doucet Corner".

In those years Doucet Corner had become important for two reasons; 1st the school was on the Doucet land, and 2nd the telephone toll office (the only one) which had been handed down from Joseph to Roland, then Roland to Albert and finally from Albert to Bernard. The toll office was removed in 1959 when rural telephones were installed.

In 1947, the Doucets adopted a boy 2½ years old, Réjean, who legally became their son nine months later.

Albert and Laurette remained on the old homestead till 1956, when for health reasons Albert was forced to move into St. Paul, leaving his son Bernard to look after the farm.

Two years later, Albert sold the old homestead to a nephew, Marcel Belzil, who owned St. Paul Hatcheries.

Albert then bought St. Paul Feed Mill. He and his son Bernard worked the Mill. Albert retired in 1975.

Albert and Laurette now live in St. Paul where they retired.

MIKE DROBOT SR.

by Drobot Family

Lafond, Alberta, May 24th, 1914 — my birthday. I'm 23 years old and waiting for the mail stage. It's due to arrive shortly from Vegreville, stop at Lafond and then go on to St. Paul. It has been a long walk from Vermilion to the south side of the North Saskatchewan River, at a spot about 2 miles below the present site of the Myrnam bridge.

My partner, Nick Zyak and I were told by settlers in the area that if we stand on the river bank and holler a boat would come and row us over to the north side. Sure enough, it did, and that's how I met the well known pioneer and business man of later years, T.C. Ashworth. He stated that if we were looking for homestead land in the area to contact a Mr. Markowski, who was familiar with the area. As we started to leave, T.C. said: "Two bits for the boat ride boys". Many years later he



Mike Drobot Sr.

asked me, jokingly, if I knew how many times he took me over in the boat and I replied: "No, but do you know how many 25¢ pieces you collected from me?". Later the boat service was discontinued as everyone used either the Hopkins ferry or the one a mile below the present Myrnam bridge. We found the Markowski homestead, sod shanty and all, and were in luck. Markowski was home and leaving on a fishing trip next day to Lac Sante. He advised us to obtain a map and plan of the surrounding townships to see which quarters were already taken up. This could be obtained from the land office in St. Paul.

The next day, bright and early, we headed out in his wagon to Lafond, Markowski and my partner to fish in the creek and myself catching the mail stage for St. Paul in the late afternoon. After an overnite stay and obtaining my map, I hired a Metis driver to take me back to Lafond for the price of two dollars. This fellow was very proud of his horses and buggy and drove at a slow walk. It was a leisurely trip, he had all the time in the world, while I was very impatient to get back to Lafond. Finally we arrived and Markowski and Zyak had already caught a sack-full of fish which they had pitched out of the creek with a fork — it being fish spawning season. Picking up a few supplies at the store there, we headed back on the long trail to the Markowski homestead.

The next couple of days were spent scouting the area, examining survey pegs, and trying to decide which quarter to file on. Some of the better quarters, which were more open, and the river flats were already occupied. I chose the S.W. 10-56-8-W4th and my partner the S.E. 16-56-8-W4th, the land my son John lives on now. However, my partners' quarter had been filed on by Guy Chamberlain three days previous so he later filed on S.E. 14-56-8-W4th. My ambition to own some land and live off it was becoming a reality.

I had arrived in Canada five years ago at the age of sixteen, alone, unable to speak English and bewildered in a strange, foreign country. There were many families from our village destined for Winnipeg with the same type of problem. We came from the Ukrainian province of Bukovina, which was part of the Austrian Empire at that time. "Land of Opportunity" we were told, jobs and free land were available, no oppression and we could do as we pleased. All of these things were denied us in Europe.

We sailed from Antwerp, Belgium, aboard a cattle boat, a ship which was used to transport live cattle to Europe from America. It was then cleaned, bunks, water and supplies taken aboard and then the ship loaded with emigrant families destined for Canada. The hardships of the ocean trip and the sea sickness was an ordeal I will never forget. On arrival at Montreal we were loaded aboard immi-

grant trains for various places in Western Canada, — Winnipeg, some to Brandon and others to Canora, Sask. After a short stay in Winnipeg where I had some relatives, I went out seeking work. The employment office was a huge building, full of men waiting for work day after day and only a few required each day. Being only 16 years old and small in stature, things looked hopeless. Men from every nationality waited patiently, day after day, for employment. Railroad gangs, sewer diggers, stone quarriers, and pulp mill workers, were called for, as needed. If none were needed, water hoses were turned on to disperse the workers from the employment office. A railroad road superintendent took pity on me because of my youth and hired me to join a railroad crew as water boy. The wages were \$1.50 a day and 60¢ a day deducted for board. This left me the princely sum of 90¢ a day. All day long, in the blazing sun, I carried water to the track workers. The words, hollered at me, were: "Water-boy", which meant I was to run to them with the water bucket and dipper. Can you imagine a crew a half-mile long, repairing railroad tracks, and me, packing water to one end only to hear someone further back (that I had just passed), holler "Water-boy!", and back to him I'd go. This was in the Rainy River area of Ontario. Nothing but rock, muskeg and the sun — "hotter than hell" in the railroad cuts. However, I was ambitious, a hard worker and soon was given a job driving spikes and tamping-in railroad ties.

And so we moved on from place to place — to Winnipeg, a year later to Jackfish Lake in Saskatchewan, then to North Battleford on a section gang. If we were laid off, it meant back to Winnipeg for the winter. For 10¢ you stayed overnite in a rooming house, with about 20 men to each room, sleeping on the floor. All winter long men looked for work and were sometimes hired to split or buck-up firewood, as everyone in Winnipeg used wood or coal. In the spring, men rode or hid in the box cars, heading west. Some brakemen let us ride the cars, but most of them chased us off regardless of where we were. Can you imagine being kicked off at a lonely siding, four of us walking down the track, tired and hungry and about forty miles to Regina? A brief job on a farm in the Regina area, then back to North Battleford on a section gang and, finally, a railroad yard job at Vermilion, Alberta, shovelling coal into the bins for the railroad locomotives.

And so there I was, as previously stated, a homestead picked out, a whole 160 acres of land. A fellow worker already had homesteaded south of the river and, taking along his team of horses, we cut and skidded logs for a shack and small barn. In the past two years, I had managed to save enough money to purchase a team of oxen, a wagon and box, and other small items needed. This was

managed by saving out of my railroad wages of \$1.75 a day, living in a railway box car and boarding myself. Later, the mosquitoes, the rain, mud, cold winters, loneliness of homestead life compared to the railroad job, 10-hour day and winter lay-offs would be compared. The freedom of working for yourself out-weighed the homestead disadvantages.

The land I filed on was very rolling with a poplar and willow cover as well as several large meadows. The next spring I broke 3 acres with my ox team as you could only work in the mornings. By 10:00 A.M. the heel and bull flies became active and the oxen headed for the slough, regardless if they had a plow behind them — no stopping them!



Sophie and Mike Drobot Sr.

In 1915, after many trips by T.C. Ashworth's boat across the North Saskatchewan River, I married Sophia Topolinsky of Willingdon area, and life took on a new meaning. Purchasing two small steer calves which I promptly traded for a heifer, with an abundance of slough hay and pea-vine, I ventured into the cattle business. Can you imagine dreaming of building a cattle herd with this small beginning? However, this heifer cow lived to the age of 17 years and produced many calves. Any dollar I could scrape together went towards the purchase of another cow. The beef cycle and prices had gone up and down, but hanging unto the old cow's tail has pulled many a homesteader through financial mudholes. When crops froze or were dried out, we sold off some cattle to keep our farm going. There was a lot of open land which was unoccupied and could be used for grazing, and lots of hay to put up for winter feed.

Well, I sold the oxen and purchased a fine team of bay horses which were my pride and joy. All summer long I was either breaking land or putting up hay. The unoccupied land, a lot of it unsuitable

for homesteading, attracted several large cattle and horse outfits from southern Alberta, the Milk River area. Several dry years made these outfits move north looking for free grassland. The Lumblads moved to the east side of Stoney Lake, and Sodes-trome camped on S $\frac{1}{2}$ 12-56-8-W4th. Also, Cliff Sewall, who trailed in a large herd of horses and 250 hereford cows, purchased the Parker Bros. property. While the Sewall outfit was crossing the river at Hopkins ferry near where the present St. Paul river pumphouse is, the large herd of horses, upon hearing the ice crack while they were crossing, bunched together and broke through. Some were lassoed and pulled out, but many were drowned. A bad beginning for a new ranching venture in this area!

And so into 1919 — a very dry year and scant feed supplies. A foot of snow on the 26th of October! On the 27th I drove my team and sleigh to St. Paul to purchase a few meager supplies. The early winter continued with a vengeance — more snow, bitter wind, more snow and the scant feed supplies dwindled to nothing. The Sewall outfit, hard pressed for fodder, hired me and my team for \$3.00 per day to help them haul feed wherever it could be found. Leaving my wife to look after our small herd, I was on the road at 5 o'clock, arriving at the Sewall ranch for breakfast. Then, we four teamsters had dinner at Ma Caskey's hotel in Elk Point and on to Frog Lake or Vermilion or Heinsburg, wherever Sewall had purchased feed, oat bundles, straw or grain, then the long trek home, walking behind our loads with frozen noses and cheeks and icicles on the horses' noses. Too dark to travel, we slept on the floor in some homesteader's shack, our teams blanketed and tied to the feed racks. An early breakfast and, starting at day-break in the cold — more snow, the creaking of sleigh runners. If the road was drifted, the loads upset several times a day. Then, unhitch the team and tip the load back. It was very hard to work in snow up to your waist. At the ranch the constant bawling of hungry cows, and, by spring, only 75 cows left out of the 250 head. What a sad story I could tell of that winter. Some of the homesteaders, who had a thatched roof on their house, fed that to their cows. Others cut willows for their cattle, but they died anyway. A few years later, Sewall went back to Milk River, saying that "You couldn't raise cattle this far north".

And on into 1920. A school was built at Lake Eliza, 3 miles away, and I served for many years as local Board Trustee.

Grain was first hauled to Vermilion, 60 miles away. With the coming of the railroad to St. Paul, the distance was shortened to 20 miles and then Elk Point, 16 miles away. An elevator was built at Armistice, 12 miles away and this became our grain shipping point. Early in the morning I would



Mike Drobot Sr. enjoying a day out at the Stoney Lake Rodeo.

shovel 60 bushels into a wagon or sleigh box and 60 bushels into another and take off, driving one team and trailing another team behind the first load. One time, I arrived at the elevator and it was 58° below. The agent said: "My gosh, Mike, you had better buy yourself a thermometer, — it's too cold for a dog to be outside!". Even my bacon sandwich was frozen solid. Often neighbors teamed up to help each other haul out the grain. They helped each other cut firewood, threshing, sawing lumber and in time of sickness. Times have sure changed as they don't even have time to visit each other now!

And so 1926. I purchased my second quarter the year before and was breaking 60 acres of land. Out of the southwest on July 17th, came a terrible hail storm, — a total wipeout! No crop. No feed. No seed for next year. I had to sell more cows to carry on. Cattle were rounded up in the fall and livestock buyers would tour the farms, purchasing cattle and driving them in large herds to the stock yards for shipment by rail. What an adventure for young fellows, playing cowboy. We kept our steers till they were 3 years old before selling them off the grass. One time, 9 of them escaped from the drovers so there was nothing to do but continue with the rest of the herd to St. Paul. When selling them the next fall, one again escaped from the herders. The following autumn, I again sold the cattle, including this steer who by now was a huge brute, 5 years of age. Tony Spence of St. Paul was the cattle buyer this time, and he told his helper, Howard Covey, to make sure that "big ox" was delivered with the rest of the purchased cattle to the stock yard at Elk Point. At this stage, the steer cleared the corral fence, breaking the top rail and again took off! Next morning, a group of cowboys arrived, led by Steve Demchuk, to trail the cattle

to market. They roped the steer on a summer-fallow field, tied a big block of wood to his neck and led him into the herd. I said to the cowboys: "You will never get that one to town", and Steve Demchuk said: "Don't worry, that steer won't be back!". What a time they had! The steer would cut back but could not run with the block tied to him. Halfway to town, he went berserk — attacking the riders and, finally, charging a big willow tree clump and breaking his neck. Both Demchuk and myself were right — that steer didn't get to market but he didn't come home, either!!

Sometimes the cattle had to be shipped on the C.P.R. line which meant driving them to Myrnam. What a wild west show — getting them to cross on the ferry. The coming of the livestock truckers solved a lot of these problems up to a point. Roads were poor in our hilly country, mostly winding trails. One time, Nick Stasyk, with his new cattle liner, loaded up 24 steers and 2 horses. It was late in the fall, roads were icy and while going up a big hill the truck spun out, skidding back into the ditch. What a mess! We pried the door open and out tumbled the animals, none were hurt but it took several days to round them up. Stasyk was quite a trucker. He came back, loaded up and, using a tractor in front of the liner, up the steep inclines the herd went to market.

Back to 1929 — the stock market crash and the depression which followed. Ten lost years they called it and they were. Beef — 5¢ a lb., hogs — \$3.00 a head, wheat — 18¢ a bushel. Cities, towns, villages, — full of unemployed people. Soup kitchens, hungry men and no work any place. They called them hoboes and bums, — always on the move from one end of the country to the other. They weren't hoboes, they were just young men looking for work and none was available, tired, hungry and discouraged. Almost every week some men would stop at the farm, looking for a job and be given a meal. There was work for them but no money to pay them with. I remember one group of 5 young fellows walking along the river from Edmonton and weaving baskets from the river willows, trying to sell the baskets at 30¢ each. They arrived at the farm, no shoes left, half starved and begging for food. One of them was too weak to move on and stayed with us for some time until he recovered. Others dug caves in the river bank south of our farm here and tried gold panning — eeking out a bare existence. Times were hard — no cash, but we had plenty to eat on the farm. We had our own meat and vegetables and flour was ground from our own wheat. Everybody was in the same boat on the homestead.

The depression hung on — the lean years — 1935 again a total destruction of our crop by hail. Our family now consisted of 3 boys and 3 girls, but in 1936, my oldest daughter met a tragic death and

1937, my wife passed away, a cancer victim. Where to turn to? What to do but carry on as best as we could.

Then 1939 — the war years. Prices improved, crops were good and more land purchased and broke up. I married Rose Yakimowich and we have a son and a daughter by this union.

Our first tractor was bought in 1949. Until this time my 3 young boys stayed at home and we used 32 horses in our field work, farming 14 quarters of land. The boys struck out on their own eventually. The oldest, John, purchased the Guy Chamberlain farm a mile from here. Mike Jr. purchased the John Dazko farm 2 miles away and then Steve purchased the Dan Wirsta farm 4 miles from my place. The youngest boy, Orest, is farming the original homestead, and we live in the same yard. When I received my pension, at the age of 70, I retired from active farming.

On May 24th, 1981, I will be 90 years old and my eyesight is getting dim, but farming was a good life, — the good times, — the sad times — all part of life.

My oldest daughter, Ann, married Jack Robertson,

Olga, (Ollie) married George Leckie,

Josephine, married Edward Wirsta.

All three daughters live in Edmonton.

John, married Gladys Demchuk,

Mike, married Ella Hovelkamp,

Steve, married Elma Pollom

Orest, married Florence Trach

One grandson is in Quebec, and one grandson in Ontario. The other grandchildren reside in Alberta.

ARTHUR AND SEVERINE DROLET AND FAMILY

by Russell Paziuk

Arthur Drolet, was born in 1847 in a small community north east of Quebec City, called Baie de St. Paul, located on the shore of the St. Lawrence river. Sudbury, Ontario was to be his first stop to find work and a short time later married Severine Girard.

Hearing of these large and virgin parcels of land that were being sold cheap in western Canada, Arthur decided to make the journey west, and in April, 1904, arrived by train to Edmonton, Alta. Because there were no rail lines, at that time, east of Edmonton, his journey east from there was to be by barge. We are told the journey down the North Saskatchewan River was completed in three days. With several friends, who were also to become residents of the Duvernay District, Arthur Drolet ended up filing for a homestead on S.W. 14-56-12-4. In August of that same year, his wife and their four children completed that same trek, and for the next 10 years were to be residents of their new Brosseau homestead.

On the 7th of August, 1914, the Arthur Drolet family filed for another homestead, this time further east, in the Lac Bellevue area on quarter section S.E. 34-55-9-W4th, just south west of Lake Eliza Lake. This area was very sparsely settled at this time and Arthur's dream to become a rancher soon disintegrated because within the next several years many other settlers began appearing around the Drolet homestead, and the large tract of land he looked forward to using, became occupied. As this



Front Row left to right: Marilda (Beloin) Arthur Drolet, Jeanne (Alain) and Severine Drolet. Back row: Hermine (Blanchette), Matilda (Blanchette), Alex, Helen (McCoy), and Edward. Picture taken in 1932.

dream of becoming a large rancher failed, Arthur Drolet sold his livestock and became interested in establishing a country store at his homestead. The need for such a service and commodity was there, but as we are told the timing was terrible because the customers were poor and the times were hard. Mrs. Mathilda Blanchette tells us that her father operated that store for three years, only to have to close it down because of losses due to credit and other economic factors. Like many others in the area at that time, Arthur worked at whatever jobs he could find to sustain his family, and helped to build roads for the municipality to pay the taxes.

Mrs. Blanchette also tells us that in June of 1919, a fire larger than she has ever seen, rolled through the Lac Bellevue and Lake Eliza districts and destroyed whatever crops were in its path. Because the Drolet homestead was located next to the creek, (east of Bill Tymofichuk's farm), they were able to save the buildings and winter feed by watering down the perimeter of the yard area, and then backfiring. She tells us that the Hawryluk's and the Donat Noels lost their homes during these fires.

Another episode of courage and determination is shown when the neighborhood decided that a school should be built in the area, as by this time, many families had moved into the area with their children. With the building of the school underway, some badly needed material had to be brought by team from Vermilion. Mr. Drolet, his two teams and loaded wagons finally crossed the ice of the North Saskatchewan to the north side. Because of the hard trip, he decided to rest his horses and himself fell asleep for a short time. Upon awakening to strange and loud sounds, he realized that the ice had begun to move. Delay on the other side or malfunction of equipment while crossing could have cost the man his life.

In 1925, the Drolets moved to St. Paul where he built a livery barn and operated it till fire destroyed it. He then retired and passed away in 1948 at age 99.

Mr. and Mrs. Drolet's children were:

Marilda (Beloin)	Helen (Auclair)
Jeanne (Alain)	Edward
Mathilda (Blanchette)	Arthur
Hermine (Blanchette)	Alexander

DUNNING, GORDON AND LOUISE

by Louise Dunning

I, Louise Tremblay, daughter of Ernest Tremblay, and Emma (Couillard), the fourth oldest of eighteen children, nine brothers and eight sisters.

I attended school here in Lafond. Then I later went on to Marvel Hairdressing School in Edmonton in 1967. On April 10th/68 I received my certifi-



Gordon and Louise Dunning April 6th/74.



Taken At Gordon's Mom and Dad's place, Bill and Susan's Wedding Day April 28th/79. Michelle 3½ years old. Gerald 16 months.



April 1972 going on stage to crown next 1973 Queen, Gordon was my escort that year.

icate for hairdressing. I came back to St. Paul to set up a shop at the tender age of 17. With the help of my folks, I did great.

In 1971, one of my hairdressing customers from Innisfree, asked me if I would run as a queen, representing the St. Paul area, in their C.W.L. contest, which is an annual spring event. I accepted with great enthusiasm. I won with a good margin, the first time an import has upset the trend — the queen had always been an Innisfree girl. This was a very thrilling experience for a 20 year old girl. When returning a year later to crown the new queen, I was escorted by Gordon, whom I later married.

Then in February, 1972, I moved back to Edmonton and worked with Riccardo's Hair Styles and Eaton's Department Stores.

At a dance in Stony Plain, April 10, in 1972, I met my husband-to-be, Gordon Albert Dunning, son of Colin Dunning and Jeannette Dunning (DeBruin). Gordon has four sisters and three brothers. He is the third oldest of his family, and was born in McCreary, Manitoba, then lived in Kelwood, Manitoba. He moved to Alberta in 1967. We were married on April 6, 1974.

Then on July 31, 1975, our daughter Michelle Lynn was born. We moved to St. Paul and bought a house. Later on, came our son Gerald Albert Dunning, born December 29, 1977.

We sold our house in town, and in 1978, bought an acreage from Aurèle Jean in the Lafond area, where we've been living ever since, raising purebred Quarter horses and purebred Shetland dogs.

A TRIBUTE TO MY DEAR PARENTS: HECTOR AND ALEXANDRINE DUPUIS

by *Laura (née Dupuis) Collins.*

It was nearing the turn of the century and times were very difficult. Young children often helped the family by toiling in the fields for long hours, hoeing, picking potatoes, and harvesting.

Hector Dupuis was one of those children. Born in the village of Morinville, Alberta, on September 2, 1895, the second of a family of ten, born to Joseph Dupuis and Rose-Anna Morissette. He attended elementary school irregularly, as he often had to work in the fields, for his uncle, or to help his widowed mother provide for a young family of whom he was the eldest son.

As he grew older his ambition was to own a farm of his own. The futility of trying to purchase land, which he believed to be one of the most fertile in Alberta, prompted Hector to seek elsewhere.

Before later venturing to north-eastern Alberta with his stepfather, Mr. Mantha, Hector worked as a ranch hand in Stettler, shovelled coal in Coalman and Cademin, spent winters in logging camps in the Edson area, worked in the coalchutes in Cranbrook, spending his summers as a farm hand for Mr. Pierre Hébert in Spruce Grove, Alberta.

He eventually decided to come to the Lafond area where he worked for Mr. Odilon Gagné who was later to become his brother-in-law.

Finally in 1918, Hector bought his own homestead, three quarters of a mile east of the hamlet of Lafond, for \$21.25 an acre.



Hector, Alexandrine Dupuis and daughter, Laura. Taken in 1927.



Mrs. Hector Dupuis and daughter Laura, in 1937.

While staying with his brother-in-law, Oliver Foisy and sister Ida May, Hector plowed twenty acres of rich soil, having first brushed his land by hand. He now had something to show for all his years of back-breaking work.

Alexandrine (Noel) Dupuis, was born March 2, 1900, in Ste. Etienne des Grés, Quebec, third daughter of a family of seven, of Louis Noel and Clémentine Désaulniers.

In 1908, she arrived in Beauvallon, Alberta, with her mother and younger children to join her father who had preceded them. There were many hardships endured as the greater part of the family's hand-woven bedding, clothing and other painstakingly prepared provisions had disappeared when they came to claim them at the railway station in Vegreville.

She, also, was deprived of the schooling she so desired. Her family later moved to Lac Bellevue where she helped operate the Post Office. Later she worked for the parish priest, Rev. Emile Tessier as housekeeper, for the modest sum of ten dollars a



Lucille Gagne, Laura Dupuis, Therese Belisle in 1937.

month. It was during these years that Alexandrine and Hector met, courted and on December 26, 1926 were married in Lafond Church.

Hector and Alexandrine began their life together farming the land Hector had cleared. For the first few years, they lived in a log house which they eventually replaced by a beautiful home which was destroyed by fire three years later.

In 1932 they rebuilt the present bungalow. Both homes had been built with lumber, that Hector had sawed and hauled by horse and sleigh, from the Dubord saw-mill in the Bonnyville area. They took great pride in the upkeep of their buildings, lawns, trees, shrubs, flowers which all provided a beautiful setting.

Additional land was purchased from the C.P.R. and cleared from which bountiful crops were produced. However, there were years when all profits were claimed by the elements.

The purchase of a motored saw added to the farm's productivity. As it was one of the few around, Hector was kept busy all winter long, sawing many neighbors' firewood, even as far as Cork and St. Brides, 12 to 15 miles away.

Alexandrine supplemented to the farm's income by always having large flocks of chickens and turkeys, fresh cream, butter, fresh vegetables and berries which she sold weekly in St. Paul, to faithful customers. Her creativity and expertise as a homemaker proved a valuable asset to Hector.

As years passed, they did all in their power to encourage their only daughter, Laura, to pursue her education to become a teacher.

They lived in Lafond until 1949. After spending five years in St. Paul, they moved to Edmonton.

In 1961, Hector suffered a severe heart attack. In 1973, a severe stroke left him paralysed. He spent the following three years in St. Joseph's Hospital where he would relate to his daughter and son-in-law, Joe Collins, and his six grand-children, the trials, tribulations and triumphs of his life with his devoted wife, Alexandrine, who visited and comforted him daily, to the day of his death Saturday, September 25, 1976.

Having spent their lifetime working and assisting each other, Alexandrine joined him forty days later on Friday, November 5, 1976.

Together may they find the peace and happiness they so well deserve, as well as all our brave and courageous pioneers.

MARTIN EASTERBEE

by N. Gongs

Well known and respected, worked in the Lafond area for several years, he too was much like Harvey Twa. To talk about Harvey Twa and not mention Martin Easterbee or vice versa, would never do.

Martin was born and grew up in the Welland area of Ontario. He, like Harvey, left home as a young man and drifted around for years, and finally to Athabasca where he and Harvey met, to remain friends till the passing away of Harvey in 1964.

They would sometimes drift to different parts of the country, but could always write to me and find out where their buddy was. They stayed in touch by mail. Martin retired to the Kelowna-Penticton fruit country where he is still living.

JOHN ESKOW

by John Eskow

Born October 2, 1904, Wostok Alberta; parents: Steve Eskow and Teodosia Gmetriw.



John and Sophie Eskow 1969.

In 1923, John moved to Lac Bellevue to farm with his Uncle Harry. Shortly thereafter, a homestead was purchased and he farmed for 4 years. It was here where he met Stefka Polowsky, who became his bride in February, 1927. They lived on the homestead three more years and then purchased a farm at Foisy which they farmed for 18 years.

In 1933, a dance hall and corrals were built. This was the location of a stampede every summer until 1939.



Harry Eskow on the Lac Bellevue Homestead in 1918. He was a councillor in the M.D. of Laurier as well as a man very involved in community affairs at Lac Bellevue.



First house built on Homestead 1925.

In 1950, John, Stefka and family moved to Edmonton to the Highlands district. John built two houses and extensively renovated another within the next ten years.

John worked as a carpenter on the CN Tower, Caravan Hotel and various Edmonton schools until retirement in 1970.

They have 5 children, 13 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

GEORGE FAKAS

by A. Zacharuk

George came to Canada from Austria in 1910 in search of a better life at the age of sixteen. He was followed by his parents approximately two years later. He had two sisters: Mrs. Harry Zacharuk (Anna) and Mrs. Andrew Gadowski (Paraska). He married and started his homestead one mile



Mary and George Fakas at Lac Bellevue homestead taken in the 1930's.



Victoria and George Fakas taken in 1955 (George's second marriage).

north of Lac Bellevue Hall in 1912. In addition to mixed farming on this property, he also operated a blacksmith shop from 1914 to 1931. During his residence in Lac Bellevue, he also ran a saw mill (1918).

As early as 1920, he owned a wooden threshing machine which he operated with stationary engine, which was pulled on a wagon. In 1925, he converted his wooden threshing machine into steel.

George was always interested in investigating things or reconstructing and adapting items to make them more practical and functional. In 1926, he took apart a wooden brush breaker plow and made one of steel for a tractor with a power lift. He plowed a considerable amount of breaking for other farmers in the area with his 15-30 McCormick Deering tractor.

Not all of his memories are pleasant ones. In addition to all the hardships of those early farming days — the drought, hail, early winters, lack of money, etc. George and his wife lost their only three sons. They did not have any other children after that.

George was a craftsman indeed! He made dulcimers and violins, both of which he played in an orchestra for a number of years.

Later in life, he moved to Edmonton to work for the Hoover Machine Shop as a machinist and then on to Barrhead, Alberta where he operated a steam driven sawmill.

His last move was to British Columbia where he sawed and planed lumber in several areas. Here he designed and made two lumber planers, a few sawmills and two resaws. His home with his second wife, Victoria (nee Arychuk) was in the little hamlet of Grinrod near Salmon Arm. It is here that his wife passed away in 1964.

George is presently confined to a wheelchair but otherwise enjoying relatively good health. He resides in a nursing home in British Columbia. He will be eighty-seven years old on April 7th, 1981.

LEONARD AND LINDA (NEE KROCHMAL) FEDORUK

by Linda Fedoruk:

August 1st, 1970, dawned a bright and sunny day outside and also in the hearts of Linda Krochmal, and Leonard Fedoruk. On this day they were to be joined together in Holy Matrimony. This was to begin a very happy, meaningful and eventful life for them together.

The first few months together we lived in a small suite in St. Paul. Later as March and spring arrived, we bought a mobile home and moved out to Joe Krochmal's farm. Joe and Leonard were farming together at the time, and two lovely years were spent there. At this time, on May 20, 1971 our family took on an increase, a son, Douglas, made his arrival, and along with him came much happiness. Then in October of that same year, we had another addition to our small family. A foster son, Faren Willis arrived and brightened up our family life a little more, and he was a great blessing to the entire family. Some time passed, and May was here again.



Rosella Fedoruk, daughter of Leonard and Linda Fedoruk, 1981.



Douglas Fedoruk son of Leonard and Linda Fedoruk, 1981.



Leonard and Linda (Krochmal) Fedoruk on their wedding day,
August 1st, 1970.

On May 19, 1972, a daughter, Rosella Lin made her arrival into this world. Although her favorite passtime then was crying, she was also a bundle of joy and livened up the family life quite nicely.

When Rosella was about one month old, we moved into the Brosseau area, leaving my brother Joe's place, and the happy memories we shared together there. The time we spent with Joe and Lucy will never be forgotten as it played a very important part in our life. At this time we began farming on our own, buying and also renting land.

A bit of sadness came into our home, as when Faren was 1½ years old, he was adopted out and had to leave our family for one of his very own. Though we knew this would someday come, it still brought some heartache. We still miss him very much, however, we thank the Lord for the happiness he did bring to our home in the short time he spent with us. We are confident that the Lord has placed him in a loving and caring home and is daily looking after him.

We are still farming in the Brosseau area, however not too very far from where I was born and spent some lovely, childhood years. We often drive past the old home place, and though no buildings stand, many memories still re-enter my mind. The trees (many of them) that Mother planted, and watered all by hand are still there, and today they are at the peak of their beauty. The maple is so big and beautiful today. There is also the small hill in the yard, that was great for winter days and a sled. Down you'd go and Oh! what joy that was. Then there was my big brother Ed's gravel truck, how I loved going for a ride with him. One day, while playing in the cab of his truck I thought to myself "Oh! this truck is so plain I think I'll re-decorate and add some flowers to the seat." Re-decorating wasn't all that hard, I'd just push the cigarette

lighter in, let it get nice and red, then made beautiful flowers on the seat with it. Wow! wasn't big brother surprised, however, I'm not sure he liked my re-decoratings as much as I did. It is a surprise that he didn't do some re-decorating of his own on my seat.

The wood stove that stood in the kitchen was a great comfort not only to the tummy, with the meals it cooked. It was also lovely when you could sit on a chair in front and warm your feet on the oven door. The old house on the farm was also special. It seemed that when mother had it all scrubbed and polished for Sunday, there was a glow and warmth about it that our modern houses today do not have. I didn't spend as much time on the homeplace as my older sisters and brothers did, however fond memories still linger in my mind, and are very dear to me. I do thank the Lord for these and also for my big happy family with whom these memories can be shared.

FEDORUK FAMILY

Evelyn Popowich (Fedoruk)

My parents are Sidor Fedoruk and his wife Jennie (Wanchulak) of the Brosseau area.

These are their beginning; Sidor's parents were Kost Fedoruk (Metro's Son), and his wife Annie (Russnak). Annie's parents were Onufrey Russnak and his wife Kataryna (Mary and Evan Bodnar's daughter). Kost and Annie had 2 sons in 1902, when they set for Canada. Kost was raised in Evankewtse, and Annie in Nepolokewtse. The Kost Fedoruk children were raised around Kaleland, Alberta and then Beavercrossing, also in Alberta. These children are;

Mafte — born 1897 in Evankewtse came to Canada as a child in 1902, worked as a youth with the CN railway, was killed working at Brule, near Hinton.

Katie — born in 1898 in Evankewtse came to Canada as a child. She married Paul Harbarenko of Beavercrossing. They had 13 children. At around 50 years of age she was killed in a farm accident.

Mike — was born in 1902, in Canada, farmed in the Grand Centre area, settled with Katie Werenka, had three daughters, and now resides on his farm there.

Mary — was born in 1905 became, of necessity, an accomplished horsewoman. She married Mike Bandura of Hamlin and settled in Brosseau. She was locally appreciated as a "pioneer veterinarian". She was also a skillful midwife. They raised 9 children on the farm, and now Mary travels among them, as she is needed. Mike passed away in August, 1979.

Rosina — was born in 1907, became the first trained nurse in the Two Hills area (before there was a hospital). She travelled much, locally, as a



Mr. Mike Wanchulak family.
Back row, L. to R. Bill, Annie,
Nick, George, Jennie (mom).
Seated, Walter, parents Metro
and Eva, Helen.

midwife. She graduated as a nurse from Edmonton's General Hospital in 1932. She married Peter Johanson. They raised 2 children and now reside in Calgary.

Edward — was born in 1908. He became a lumberjack and a miner at the age of 38. He died suddenly while employed at a Coal Mine in Mercoal February, 1946.

Sidor — was born on May 23, 1910, farms in the Brosseau area. He married Jenny Wanchulak of Dowling near Vilna, and raised 8 children.

Nick — Born in 1911, was a town policeman and drayman for Two Hills. He was also a miner and cooked in lumber camps. He served in World War 11 as an army "sniper" and returned with a permanent disability. As a veteran he was able to take training as a medical x-ray technician. He was one of the first to be employed at the New Two Hills Hospital. He then worked at the Stettler Hospital until he retired. He died suddenly Sept. 20, 1972 at the age of 61.

Andrew — Born in 1913, became Two Hills first "Dzigarneest". Jeweller watch repairman. He is a craftsman who can build the part that needs replacement! He married Rose Sherstianka. They raised 4 boys and now reside on an acreage near Duvernay, across from Blackie Lloyd Butcher's farm. His pet hobbies are antique jewellery and very precious violins.

Metro -- Born in 1916, became a farmer and resides in Claresholm, Alberta.

Mabel -- Born in 1918, worked out as a young lady.

She married Toby Epp, raised 3 children and now reside in Victoria, B.C.

Kost Fedoruk — died in 1945, his wife Annie in 1951.

By then my father (Sidor) had left home at 19 years of age, he had attended school at Kaleland, Wattsford, and Two Hills, had seen the CP build the railway, through his father's Kaleland farm, helped brush and break the Kaleland homestead and also their Beavercrossing farm. When he set out for Brosseau, he had only the clothes he wore, his trusty gun, a strong back, a keen mind, lots of ambition but not much else of necessity, he became a self-taught gunsmith, for a man's weapon was his survival. The reserve nearby soon passed the word along and many natives arrived with guns needing work, and saws needing sharpening. William Half and Ben Moses are old time Indians who recall "Sheeder's" talents. Soon the whole reserve began to refer to him as "paska see gunny eggo nista", (a gun-smith you can trust).

Sidor worked for Camille Gamache as a farm labourer. He rented some land and then bought it from Mr. and Mrs. Léo Despains, took an adjacent homestead and began farming in earnest. Brosseau friends began to call him "Silver" because it was easier, so now my father answers to both "Silver" and "Sidor", which makes for a shmozzel if my kid brother "Silver" happens to be in the same room.

My mother, Jennie Wanchulak was born to Metro Wanchulak (son of John Wanchulak and his wife Paladyia (Makovichuk) and Metro's wife Eva (Olynyk) (daughter of Paul Oluenek and his wife Zanahira Zelenko). Jennie was the 5th of 9 children born to Metro and Eva Wanchulak at Dowing near Vilna. Both Eva and Metro were born and raised in Chernovatz, Austria but came to Canada single, and were married at Vegreville. "Gido" Metro had 3 years of Old Country "Reedin, ritin, and ritmatic" which would serve them well.

These are their children:

Katie — born in 1912, married George Werenka of Vilna, Alberta, raised 11 children, she died Aug. 1, 1980.

Mary — born in 1914, married Metro Bandura of Hamlin, Alberta raised 12 children, died February 13, 1980, Metro died in 1975.

Nick — born 1916, married Ann Orleski of Wilingdon, and raised 3 children. He passed away October, 1979.

Bill — born in 1918, married Annie Prochuk of Hamlin, Alberta and raised 2 children, Bill and his wife reside in Calgary.

Genia — Jennie born in 1920, married Sidor Fedoruk of Brosseau, raised 8 children. They are semi retired on their farm.

George — born in 1922, married Katie Brodyck of Smoky Lake, Alberta. They raised 3 children. They now reside in Edmonton's Millwoods area, Alberta.

Annie — born in 1924, married Steve Kimak of Bellis, Alberta and raised 6 children. Steve and Ann reside in Two Hills Alberta.

Helen — born in 1926, married Metro Dmetruke of Bellis, Alberta, raised 6 children. They now reside in Edmonton, Alberta.

Walter — born in 1928, resides in Surrey, B.C. with his wife Sue (Tittle) from Evansburg, Alberta. Metro Wanchulak died March 13, 1946. Eva Wanchulak died June 13, 1969.

My mother, Jennie Fedoruk (nee Wanchulak) was well educated in survival. Grandfather took a homestead at Good Fish Lake and his 4 early teen children spent 2 months there, picking roots and rocks, pasturing cattle, milking cows and salting layers of cottage cheese in crocks for winter. They picked berries, layered them with sugar in crocks too. Jennie was the only girl at this homestead, so she was responsible for their domestic care. Stale cottage cheese in a hot fry pan was pioneer "mozarella". She made bleach by stirring wood ashes into hot water and discarding the sediments. Except for hot salt water to clean wounds and a bread crust soaked in milk as a poultice, they had providence's smile and their own wits for survival. Their parents came once every two weeks to "re-stock" Jennies "harder" with flour, salt, baking powder, pork, eggs and potatoes. Their cabin was a dirt

floor. They banged the bathtub with a stick to scare away any rodents who wanted to invade the larder.

Jennie also spent many hours knitting, 18 pairs of mitts and 18 pairs of socks for each winter, while her mother carded the wool and hand spun the yarn and told her daughter all about her early life.

When she met "Sidor" at the age 17, she was well prepared. Jennie's sister Mary and Sidor's sister Mary had married the Bandura brothers. They lived 20 miles apart, so it was inevitable that they would meet.

Jennie and Sidor were married, July 21, 1938, at the Dowing Church near Vilna. Mr. and Mrs. Tom Melnychuk were the witnesses. Sidor's best men were Louis Salou, Bill Logozar, Nick Gongos, Jennie's maids were Pearl Shapka, Mary Katan, Sodia Wanchulak, with Mabel Fedoruk as candle holder. They got \$120.00 in donation, some bolts of material, and some live hens. They "honeymooned" at Sidor's Shack. His farm had the Ispas Brosseau "Veevez" crossing.

My parent's early life together was an economic struggle. My father had many saleable talents, he hunted, trapped and fished, filed saws at 25¢ each, sold rabbit pelts at 5¢, coyotes at \$2.50 max. He sold greenfeed at 1/4¢ a bundle, 400 bundles for 1 dollar!! As a child I remember that most of the meat served on our table was government fed wild game.

He fixed guns, axes and saws. He was a custom sawyer and had a custom grain mill too. He custom blasted rocks and did many acres of custom breaking.

My mother did her share too, by having to take over all Dad's home duties while he did custom work. She always had a gigantic garden. She sewed all our clothes, including winter coats. I remember her rushing through her chores, hitching our white mare to the buggy, bundling Irene and me all up, before I was 4, and we'd head out to "Elena Hnatuiks", because this lady was an accomplished seamstress and my mother was eager to collect any "pearls of wisdom" that she could cast Mom's way. They made patterns from brown paper from the store.

I remember many Indian families, whose friendship we valued. I recall gifts of intricately beaded moccasins and mitts that we treasured. I remember going to school occasionally at St. Laurent, with the Bandura kids in their "Caboose".

The family grew and after my sister's 3 years of schooling in various areas, we all moved closer to a bus route and my sister Irene and I began attending School at Two Hills. By the time Mom was "done with diapers" there were 8 faces around the table. Well, 7 during the week, 'cause Irene was married, so that made Sunday dinner for 9, besides, Mom and Dad.

I clearly recall 5 faces waiting for the School Bus! Five sets of homework to spread out, and only one table and one coal oil lamp! Winter mornings



October 7, 1978. Sidor and Jennie Fedoruk's family. Cheryl standing behind her Mother and Dad. The children are seated (older to younger), all mates standing behind. Occasion is Dennis and Paulette's wedding.

we caught the bus at 7:10 and a coal oil lamp doesn't differentiate between navy, black and brown. We often arrived at school with different colored socks!

We all enjoyed school because it was much easier, you learned sitting down, at home we had to learn on the run! We chored, made hay, plastered buildings, cut piglets' teeth, and all those by-hand farming specialties. Mother didn't cuddle us, neither we nor she had the time. We were all raised without benefit of running water or electricity. She had faith in us, but, more so, she had great faith in a Being greater than us all!

I graduated from the Two Hills School, and won a bursary which allowed me to take the Medical Lab and X-Ray Training at no expense to my parents. I graduated in April of 1963 and headed out to Willingdon Hospital, for my first posting. There I met Alex Popowich. The years have worked changes we never would have imagined. These are Sidor and Jennie Fedoruk's children.

Irene — born July 28, 1939. Schooled in Champlain, by correspondence at home, at St. Laurent School, in Edmonton before attending the rest at Two Hills, worked at an Edmonton Hair-dressing Shop, St. Paul Dry Cleaners, and the Two Hills Hospital. Married Ed. Krockmal (Walter Senior's son from Lafond). They are on a farm north of St. Paul, raising 4 children. Irene is well known locally as an exterior and interior painter. She also likes re-finishing furniture.

Evelyn — born June 7, 1943 the twin of a still born boy. All grades at Two Hills, after graduation began Lab and X-Ray training through a Gov't bursary. Graduated May 63, worked in Hospitals, Willingdon, Mundare, Rocky Mtn. House, Provincial Mental Institute, married Alex Popowich from Willingdon (originally Lake Eliza — Fred's son) worked at Fort Saskatchewan and again at Rocky Mtn. House 8 years later. Lived in Lafond 2 years. Now lives on a farm at Lac Sante, raising 2 boys.

Leonard — born Dec. 23, 1947, schooled at Two Hills, worked at local Cockshutt shop, returned to full time farming. Married Linda Krockmal (Walter Senior's daughter from Lafond.) Live in the Brosseau Area where they farm on a very large scale. They have 2 children. Leo and his dad still hunt together.

Diane — born December 19, 1950. She arrived a couple months after the premature still birth of her twin, much to Dr. Kay's surprise!!! She schooled and graduated from Two Hills. Took a CNA course at Red Deer, worked at Edmonton General Hospital and Royal Alexandra. Married Melvin Yagos of Westlock, August 1976. Began employment at Westlock Bank of Montreal. She and her husband and their daughter live in Westlock.

Dennis — born March 19, 1952. Arrived when Diane was 15 months old. She was weaned, but

we didn't watch her carefully, so poor Dennis screamed with hunger till we caught Diane stealing his full bottle and carefully replacing it empty. Dennis schooled and graduated in Two Hills. Added some Mechanic's courses at St. Paul, completed an Auto Mechanics Apprenticeship with Henry Brault's Texaco Service Station. He later purchased this shop. He married Paulette Faucher (Ed Faucher's daughter from St. Edward now in St. Paul) Paulette shares in the Star Brite Jewellery and Gift Shop.

David — born May 1953, died 3 days later.

Debbra — born June 3, 1954. Schooled 11 years at Two Hills, graduated at St. Paul, began as a Two Hills Bank of Montreal Teller. Transferred to Edmonton "Gold Bar Branch". Married Border Zaleschuk (Nick Zaleschuk's son, Plain Lake) June 1957. They lived in Vegreville, then Fort Saskatchewan Evergreen trailer park, and now at Ranfurly. They have one daughter.

Silver — born February 18, 1956. (father's name-sake) schooled at Two Hills, worked around Alberta before deciding Hinton's Pulp Mill had good prospect. Married Carol Shipely (originally from Myrnam). They have one daughter. Recently they moved to Two Hills where Silver has the local "Superior Gulf Station".

Cheryl — (Ann) born June 28, 1961 (Baba Annie Fedoruk's namesake). Schooled and graduated from Two Hills. Took 5 months of business Education at St. Paul. Two Hills School office, town office and county office gave her work experience. Began work for Provincial Gov. in Edmonton's Advanced Education Manpower Department. Married Terry Chrapko, Dave and Dora's son from Two Hills in Aug. 1980. They reside in Edmonton. She now works for Guthrie Drilling and Terry is an auto mechanic in the South side, both in Edmonton.

My parents are still on the farm, without electricity or running water. In summer we never notice the lack of these conveniences, however, a few minutes on "Old Man Winter's throne," that's when we are really noticed!!

JAMES FERRIS FAMILY

by Lorraine Karaluk

James Ferris of Falcarragh, Co. Donegal, Ireland married Louise Alexander of Ballyclare, Co. Antrim, Ireland on June 20th, 1923. Three of their four children were born there, Patrick, Mary and James.

In the spring of 1929, with the hope of better opportunities for themselves, they joined the many others from the British Isles who emigrated to Canada. They arrived in Edmonton in June. James was hired to work on a farm at Riviere Qui Barre, a few miles from Morinville. In May of 1930, they moved



James and Louise Ferris Taken 1934. Mary, Thomas, James and Patrick.

to the Irish settlement of St. Brides, taking over the farm formerly owned by Mr. J. O'Donald.

On May 5th, 1931, another son "Tommy" was born.

In the early forties, they bought the neighbouring farm owned by Mr. J. McManus which Patrick later farmed. 1948 saw them moving a little closer to St. Paul after they bought Mr. James Cormack's farm.

Their oldest son, Patrick married Ernestine Gagnon of Grandin, Alberta. They have four children, Thomas, Marie, Greta and Dennis. After farming for quite a few years, Patrick is now the owner of a confectionery store in Daysland.

Mary married Thomas Livingstone of Onoway and they are farming. They have three children, Sydney, Lynn and Tommy.

James Jr. has remained a bachelor. He farmed for many years with his brother Thomas but since 1979, has been working for Northern Alberta Dairy Pool in St. Paul.

Thomas married Lorraine Plante of St. Paul in Nov. 1953. Born to them were five children, Louise, married to Erik Nielsen of Halifax, Nova Scotia. Colleen married to William George of Wetaskiwin, Alberta. Glenn married to Josie Frankiw of Two Hills, Alberta. Shaun and Michael at home.



Pat McMullen, James Ferris, Arther O'Neill.

At this time there are three grandchildren, Luke Nielsen, Mandy Ferris and Anthony George.

Mrs. Louise Ferris passed away in August 1960, her husband James in June 1972, followed by their son Thomas in October 1978.

JAMES AND LOUISE FERRIS

by Patrick Ferris

James and Louise Ferris, and three of us children myself Patrick, the oldest, Mary and James, emigrated to Canada in April 1929. James Sr. was born in Dunmore County, Donegal, Ireland. Louise (Alexander) was born in Rasharkin County Antrim, Ireland.

We settled in Riviere Qui Barre for a year, my father worked for a farmer by the name of Dan Falls. In the fall of 1929, a Soldiers Settlement representative notified us there were five vacant quarters in an Irish Colony (St. Brides). These families were returning home. After harvest Dad took the train to St. Paul, was met by Mr. McEachern, and driven out to inspect the farms. He picked out the Joseph McDonald farm which became our home place.

In the spring of 1930, Dad purchased a team of horses and wagon and hayrack, loaded up all our belongings and journeyed to St. Brides, which took us four days. My mother and we children travelled by train to St. Paul and were driven out to the farm by the Soldier Settlement Board representative.

We managed to get a crop in, that spring.

In May, 1931, my youngest brother was born, Thomas.

In 1940, Dad rented Pat Lenard's farm, and in 1945, he bought the McGlone's farm.

We purchased our first tractor from Emmett McGuire. We used it to break land.

In 1947, Dad bought Joe McManus's farm for me, through the Soldier Settlement Board on crop payments.

In 1948, he bought Jim Cormick's place six miles from St. Paul, and we moved there. That same year he sold McGlone's farm to Jim Devine.

In 1950, I moved on my own and married Ernestine Gagnon, and started farming.

I bought Hugh Quinn's farm in 1964. In 1968 we bought a business in Hobbema, and moved off the farm. I sold McManus farm in 1971.

I sold out in Hobbema in 1975, and started a business in Daysland.

We raised four children Tommy 29 (single), Marie 27, married to Ken Kauchur, they have one son all living in Bruderheim, Alberta. Greta 16 at home in school. Dennis 14 at home in school.

In 1958 my parents went to Ireland, their first trip home. My mother passed away in 1959. Dad stayed on the farm, until he passed away in 1972.

JIM FISK, JEANNE MELADY, JED AND JESSIE FISK

by Jim Fisk

In August 1975, we moved to St. Paul with our little boy Jed and rented a house south of Lafond from Ray and Georgette Labreque. It was a cozy little house, situated in the trees across the road from the Labreque homesite.

While living here we looked for our own place and eventually bought a quarter of land, N.E. 33-55-9-W4 in the Lac Bellevue district. Jim cut logs, some from the area and some from the Lac La Biche forest. We started to build a log house on which Jim spent many hours of cutting notches and scribing logs. Jeanne taught at Saddle Lake School.

In 1978 our second little boy, Jesse, was born. By that same fall the house was livable and we moved permanently from the Lafond home.



Log house built by Jim Fisk and Jeanne Melady on N.E. 33-55-9-W4.



Jed and Jesse Fisk, Jesse is 1 year old, Jed is 4.

THE HARRY AND ANTONIA FODCHUK FAMILY

by Antonia Fodchuk as told to Mary Zacharko

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Fodchuk were married in Vermilion in 1917. I was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Straty of Myrnam. Harry and I, settled at Pathfinder for two years, where Harry was farming. There we had one son, we named him John. After farming at Pathfinder for two years, Harry decided to move to Vermilion. There he worked for the Canadian National Railways. We lived in Vermilion for two years where our first daughter, Olga, was born. Harry's health wasn't very good so he decided that farming was his goal. This is when he packed our belongings, including me and our two children to settle on a homestead at Lac Bellevue. Our homestead was situated on N.W. 9-56-9-W of 4 (19 Aug. 1921). Here we built a two room house and in a matter of a few years and lots of cold winter nights, six more children were born to our family.

All the farmers would get together with some horses and lots of manual labor to build roads so that they could get to town. They also built a community hall and a school. Thus our children finally could learn to read and write.



Antonia Fodchuk spending a Sunday afternoon at Lac Bellevue Lake about 1961.

Daughter Josie relaxing in Wm. Zacharko's 1959 chevy.

In 1937 Harry took sick and was sent to Edmonton hospital. I did not see him alive again. I was left with eight children ranging from ages sixteen to four years.

John, my oldest son, helped me on the farm while the younger children were growing up. Later he moved to Copper Mountain, B.C., to work in a copper mine. He married a girl from Copper Mountain. They had two children, Linda and Allan. When the copper mine shut down, he moved to Britania Beach to work in another mine. There in April of 1960, John lost his life in a mine accident. Then five years later, a house fire claimed the life of their oldest daughter, Linda. Allan, his only son,

moved to Alberta from B.C., married Lorraine Robinson of Lafond and is now living in Brooks, Alberta.

Olga, my oldest daughter, stayed home and helped me with the younger children. She is married to Bill Zacharko. His parents were super special to me. They helped me with my every needs. Olga and Bill have two children, Judy and Debbie. Judy is married to Randy Kulczycki and they have one daughter, Dayna. Debbie is still single. Bill and Olga and their children live in St. Paul where they own and operate a transport business, Hi-Way 28 Freightways Ltd.

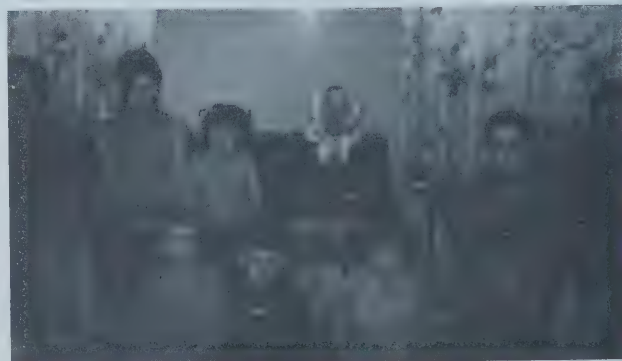
Mike, my third child lives in Edmonton. His family biography is submitted in this history book.

Josie, my fourth child, left home to go to work when she was quite young. She went to work in Vegreville, later and after the war she met Wally Stevens, a war vet, who asked her to marry him. They got married and later moved to Hope, B.C. where they now live. They have three boys; Kenneth, Douglas, and Rodney. Ken is married and lives in Hope, B.C.

Bill, my fifth child, is still living with me. He has never let me down — even when he went to work out of home he always sent money home to help me with family bills and the upbringing of the children. He now works for the Canadian National Railways and I live with him.

Anne, my sixth child, went to work in Vegreville after she finished school and there she met her husband, Harold Wade. Married in 1948, they have two daughters; Donna and Darlene. Donna is married to Bryce Ziegler and they have two children; Keltie and Kevin. Darlene is married to Wes Mayes and they have two children; Jill and Lisa. Anne and Harold live in Vegreville and their children and grandchildren live in Edmonton.

Mary, my seventh child, went to school at Henley and to high school in St. Paul. After schooling she went to work in Edmonton for a few years and then came home to help out on the farm where she met and later married her first husband, John



Celebrating Xmas with Grandma Fodchuk.

L-R Olga Zacharko, Judy Zacharko, Kelly Dyrda, Debbie Zacharko, Greg Windiuk, Baba Fodchuk, Peggy Dyrda, Larry Windiuk, Elsie Windiuk.

Dyrda. The new couple moved to Myrnam where John worked as mechanic in a local garage. Later they moved to Edmonton where they operated a service station until 1969 when a tragic auto accident claimed the life of her husband. John and Mary had two children; Peggy and Kelly.

In 1973 Mary moved back to St. Paul and went to work at Hi-Way 28 Freightways Ltd. Some time before 1978, she and an old school chum and a wonderful childhood neighbour got together and he asked her to marry him. On April 22, 1978, Michael Zacharko and Mary Dyrda (nee Fodchuk) were married and have moved to live on the farm just a mile and a half from where Mary grew up as a child. The two girls, Peggy and Kelly, live with them.

Elsie, was the last of our children. She went to school at Henley and later went out to work. She worked in Edmonton for a few years and then returned to St. Paul where she met and later married Walter Windiuk of Elk Point. Married in 1953, the couple operated a shoe repair shop in St. Paul. Later, Elsie worked as a cashier at Central Supplies in St. Paul while Walter operated coin laundromats in Elk Point and Lac La Biche. They had three children. Larry, a plumber, lives and works in St. Paul and is still single. Libbey lives and works in Edmonton and is still single. Gregory, training to be a fish and wildlife officer at Red Deer, stays in St. Paul when not at school. Elsie and Walter live in St. Paul where she has her own shoe shop.

All my children had to walk four miles to Henley School. There were a lot of anxious days, not moments, when I would worry not knowing whether they made it to school or not. This may seem unreal, but I do believe that the winters were much colder and the snow was deeper then. Maybe the children's clothing wasn't of the best quality by the time it got handed down eight times. Worn pretty thin by then, I believe. Losing my loved one and the breadwinner of my family made my heart cold too.

Well, after writing about my pioneer life and my children, it seems that I have lived a long and fruitful life. I thank God and my wonderful neighbours for helping me through the roughest years of my life. There were days, when I didn't know what my children and I would do, or where the food for their hungry mouths would come from, but with help from our special neighbours we managed to survive.

MIKE FODCHUK AND FAMILY

by Mike Fodchuk

I was born September 16th, 1923 to Antonia and Harry Fodchuk at Vermilion. The third child of a family of eight. My parents moved to Lac Bellevue, Alberta shortly after I was born.



Top L-R — Lucy, Mike, Bottom L-R Micheal, Diane.

There I attended all my school years and went to Henley School which was only four miles away. We walked to school most of the years.

I remember when my Dad passed away; I was only fourteen years old; Mom had her hands full with all of us kids. Her life was rather rough and miserable for a few years but somehow we managed to pull through.

After I quit school, I helped my brother on the farm until I was eighteen years old, then I was drafted into the Armed Forces. I served in the Army from 1942 to 1945. When the war was over, I was discharged from the Army, so naturally, I went back farming.

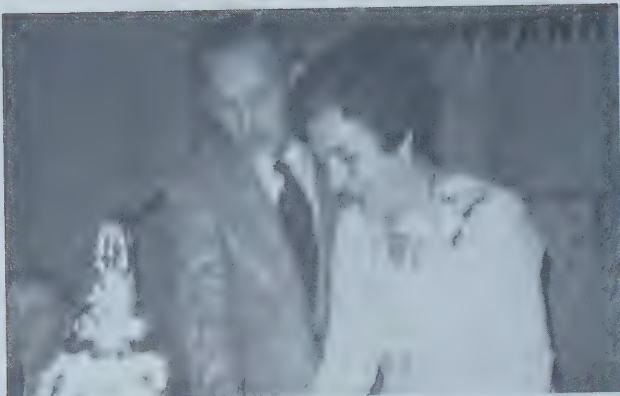
In 1949 I got married to Lucy Harmatiuk, the daughter of Anna and Daniel Harmatiuk, born December 23rd, 1931, the youngest in the family.

After we got married, we decided to keep on farming but times were very hard those days. We managed to stay on the farm for 17 years, with help from our relatives and the good neighbours we had.

Then in 1965, we decided that we had enough of farming. I went to Edmonton and got a job at the beginning of 1966. I worked for awhile, then I bought my first car, a 1959 Ford.

I went home every second or third weekend to see how my wife was making out. I left her on the farm with two children and all the livestock. She found it very hard but she managed quite well.

Then in August of the same year, we moved to Edmonton. We bought our home the same year. My wife and I are still working and thank God we are still in fair health.



Mike & Lucy Fodchuk 25th wedding anniversary, 1974.

We have a family of two; one daughter and one son. We also have four grandchildren: Danielle, Shaun, Angie and Aaron.

Our daughter Diane, was born October 22nd, 1950. She attended school in St. Paul and Edmonton. She is a Registered Nurse, now married to Len Greanya. They are living in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan.

Our son Michael, was born on August 1st, 1957, and is living in Edmonton and presently working for the Government.

ADRIEN AND MYRA FOISY (NEE LABINE)

by Helene Coopey and Armand Foisy.

Adrien, son of Marcel and Tharcil Foisy (nee Pigeau), was born at Timmins, Ontario, January 24, 1888. He came to the Foisy district with his parents in 1905.

In 1918, he married Myra Labine and lived on his father's homestead, the S.W. 21-56-11-4 until approximately 1934. Their older children attended Big Fish Lake (Foisy) School, while living here.

They then moved to the Shamrock Valley district. Here they farmed and also operated a small grocery store until approximately 1945. The younger children attended the Shamrock Valley School.

In 1946, Mrs. Myra Foisy passed away and was buried in the Elk Point Cemetery. This same year



Adrien and Myra's Wedding picture. Taken 1918.



Mr. Adrien Foisy at 93 years.
Taken in Vernon B.C. 1980 the
oldest living Foisy today.



Taken 1928, Mr. and Mrs. Adrien Foisy with their 6 older children;
L-R Adrien with Elma on lap, Delema, Urbain, Myra, Hermine on
lap, Albert and Evelyn sitting.

Mr. Foisy and his younger children moved to B.C., where some of his older boys were already living and working for a few years, but he came back to the farm in Shamrock Valley. In 1953, Adrien and his children moved to Lombay, B.C.

Mr. Foisy at the age of 93, the oldest living Foisy known to us, is presently residing in the Cherryville Community Old Folks Home at Vernon, B.C. He is still able to care for himself, and when visited last summer, indicated that he would jig in the old French Canadian style on his 93rd Birthday, January 24, 1981. They have a family of 13 children; Urbain, Albert, Evelyn, Elma, Delma, Hermine, Charles, Ronald, Edwin, Bernice, Jean, Clarence and Lorraine.

AIME AND GABRIELLE FOISY (NEE BERGERON)

by the Family

Aime Foisy, oldest son of Eugene and Rose Foisy (nee Malo), was born in the Foisy district on a lovely spring day. Aime attended Big Fish Lake (Foisy) School from 1936 to 1944. He walked three miles to school for six years. He considered himself lucky if he could get a ride with somebody, until the day his dad bought him a bike. Biking to school was faster and much more fun. This way he could come home earlier to help his parents on the farm.

Being the oldest of the family, Aime left school at an early age to help his dad. By that time his father was changing to power machinery, so he



Aime and Gabrielle's wedding picture.

worked very little with horses. The first rubber wheeled tractor, (W6), was acquired in 1945 to replace the steel-wheeled Minneapolis Moline. By now the land was all broken, so the steel wheels were no longer required.

In 1948, Aime decided to go into the farming business with his dad and bought a quarter of land in the Lafond district.

On July 8, 1952, Aime married a local girl, Gabrielle Bergeron, the youngest daughter of Napoleon and Eva Bergeron (nee Tessier) of Lafond. Gabrielle attended Cartier School until grade nine. Since the higher grades were not taught here, she continued her education in St. Paul and acquired a High School Diploma. While attending high school, she was a resident at the Convent des Soeurs de L'Assomption. She often reminisces about these good old convent days, her friends and the trouble they managed to get into. Even though regulations were strict they had many good times (a good experience away from home).

After graduating from school she lived at home with her parents for a few years, helping around the farm. In 1947, Gabrielle enrolled at the Vermilion School of Agriculture, an asset for one who wishes to be a good house keeper.

In 1948, Gabrielle supervised at Cartier School for one school term. With only six pupils enrolled for this term, the experience was rewarding but did not encourage her to choose teaching as a career. Then she worked in the Admitting Office at the St. Theresa Hospital in St. Paul for a few years.

In 1952, Gabrielle and Aime were married in the St. Bernard Roman Catholic church of Lafond with Father Robert LeRouge officiating. The recep-



Aime and Gabrielle and Family Taken 1977. Standing L-R: Edmond, Diane. Seated: Gabrielle, Aime, Leane, Lorraine.



Aime and Gabrielle 25th anniversary.

tion was held in the parish hall of St. Paul, followed by a dance at the Legion Hall. They spent their honeymoon in Banff, Lake Louise and Radium Hot Springs. This was the beginning of a new life together.

They lived at the paternal farm with Aime's parents during the summer while they were remodelling an old house located on N.W. 1-57-11, the Doyon Place. In September, they moved into their home, which was not such an expensive house, but it was comfortable and they were happy.

Coal oil lamps were used for light, coal and wood for heat and water had to be hauled by the pailful. To do the laundry, they would melt snow or ice in winter and haul water by the barrelful from a lake or slough in the summer. Sometimes they would even rely on rain water.

In the fall of 1952, they built a log barn to shelter their three cows, a few pigs, and chickens. In the spring of 1953, a frame structured barn and pig pen were built to accommodate the increase in livestock.

In those days there were no television sets to watch so the long winter evenings were spent listening to the battery operated radio, playing cards (becoming excellent crib players), reading or visiting.

In 1954, through the Champlain R.E.A., of which Aime was a director, power was brought to the farm. This was the beginning of a more luxurious life and easier farming.

After a lot of consideration whether to have a central heating system and the conveniences of running water etc., in the old house, they decided to build a new and roomier house to accommodate the growing family. In November of 1964, they were very happy to move into their new home, enjoying all these new facilities, making life more pleasant. Adding to their conveniences, natural gas was brought to their farm on February 9, 1977, through the St. Paul Lakeland Gas Co-op, of which Aime has been a director for four years.

Aime has never taken special courses but through experience, practice and reading, has become very handy with tools and can repair just about anything around the farm from machinery to small appliances.

Aime and Gabrielle have enjoyed living in this community for the past twenty-eight years and hope their health will permit them many more years of farming life in the district. They are grateful to their parents, grand-parents and all the pioneers who were very courageous and worked so hard in developing this community.

Aime and Gabrielle were blessed with four children: one son, three daughters, and two grandchildren. The two oldest children, Lorraine and Edmond, are now married and have a home of their own. Diane took her elementary schooling in Lafond School, then Regional High School in St. Paul, where she graduated in June, 1980, with a High School Diploma and Senior Business Certificate. She is a director of the Golden Hour Club. Diane is presently living at home and is employed at Zarrowny Motors in St. Paul. Leane is at home and attending school in Lafond.

Lorraine, born April 17, 1953, married Marvin Richter.

Edmond, born October 22, 1955, married Dellis Logozar.

Diane, born July 22, 1962.

Leane, born December 6, 1967.

LORRAINE RICHTER (FOISY)

Lorraine, daughter of Aime and Gabrielle Foisy (nee Bergeron), was born April 17, 1953 in the St. Theresa Hospital, St. Paul. She took her elementary schooling in Lafond, then attended Racette School and St. Paul Regional High where she graduated in 1971. She then enrolled at the Misericordia School of Nursing and graduated as a Registered Nurse in 1974.

On September 6, 1975 Lorraine married Marvin Richter. They lived in Edmonton for two years, then in 1977, they bought a house in Stony Plain where they are presently living.

Marvin is a heavy equipment operator and is working in and around Stony Plain. Lorraine is employed as a Registered Nurse in Edmonton.



Taken September 6, 1975, Lorraine and Marvin Richter wedding picture.

ALADIN AND LAURENCE FOISY (NEE MARION)

by Helene Coopey and Armand Foisy

Aladin, third son of Alphonse and Ozine Foisy, was born at Timmins, Ontario, in 1888.



Aladin and Laurence Foisy. Taken in 1932 with their 1932 Ford.



Taken in the Mid 40's. Diana, Delia, Wilfred, Aladin, Laurence, Leo.

He was seventeen years of age when he came to the Foisy district with his parents.

On May 26, 1908, he filed for a homestead, the N.E. 4-57-11-4 and farmed it for approximately ten years. Later this farm became the Joseph Henley place.

On January 31, 1911, Aladin, married Laurence, daughter of Jean Baptiste and Elodie Marion, in the Roman Catholic Church of Brosseau, with Father A. Clermont officiating.

In 1918, Aladin and Laurence built a store on the N.W. corner of section 21-56-11-4, which was opened for business in 1919. This same year the Post Office was assigned to them, Aladin becoming the first Postmaster of Foisy.

Aladin was the operator of a sawmill, owned by the Foisy's. The lumber made from this mill was used to build their homes and farm buildings.



Taken 1947, Bernard Vaillantcourt, Armand Foisy, and Romeo son of Aladin and Laurence Foisy.

In the 1920's, he built a thirty passenger pleasure boat, operating it on Lac Sante for a few years.

Their children were born and raised in the Foisy district and received their schooling at the Big Fish Lake (Foisy) School.



Taken in 1945.
Albina and Rosa —
daughters of Aladin and
Laurence and cousin
Jeannette in centre.

They managed the store and Post Office until 1942, then sold it to Mr. and Mrs. Adrien Robinson. They subsequently moved to the S.E. 35-56-11-4 and farmed until their retirement, then moved to B.C.



Mrs. Laurence Foisy, taken
in her home in Merritt, B.C.
1980.

Aladin passed away in 1957 at the age of 69 years. His wife Laurence is presently living with a son Leo, at Merritt, B.C. and still enjoys good health at 87 years of age.

They have a family of seven children: Diana, Romeo, Delia, Leo, Rosa, Wilfred, Albina.

ALADIN & PAULETTE FOISY STORY

by Paulette Foisy

Aladin Foisy, was born to Arthur Foisy and Marie Foisy (née Paradis), of Foisy on September 27, 1936. He weighed only 1½ pounds at birth and was fed with a dropper and slept in a shoe box. The shoe box was kept on the warming oven of the stove and for his bath, baby oil only, was used. All through his childhood he lived with his parents on



Aladin and Paulette Foisy (née Marcoux). Wedding Day July 10, 1965.

the homestead. He went to school in Foisy till grade six. Afterwards he was transferred to Lafond School till grade eight. He then went farming with his dad, who had difficulty in walking and eventually had to use a wheelchair.

I, Paulette Foisy (née Marcoux), the third child of a family of ten children, was born August 24, 1946, to Armand Marcoux and Dolores Marcoux (née Benoit). We lived in St. Edouard and I had all my schooling till grade nine inclusive, at St. Edouard School. I took my grade ten at Racette School in St. Paul. Then in August 1964, I started working at St. Theresa Hospital in St. Paul as a Ward Aide. This lasted till my marriage in June 1965.

Aladin Foisy and I, Paulette (née Marcoux), were married July 10th, 1965 and we lived at Aladin's parents homestead on the quarter section where Foisy Store used to be. Our barn was burned



Aladin Foisy's house in Lafond, the former Leo Mailloux residence.
Taken in 1979.



Arthur Foisy and Family.

Left to right: Aladin (kneeling) Marie Foisy, Ernest, Anna, Juliette, and Arthur Foisy seated in the wheelchair.



Aladin Foisy and Family.

Back row left to right: Monique, Jacqueline, and Giselle.

Front row: Seated Paulette Foisy with Philip and Aladin Foisy seated, Rachel and Lise.

to the ground in the spring of 1966. We built a new barn in the same summer, with the help of our neighbors and Mr. Gabriel Giroux as carpenter.

We then sold the farm to Eugène Foisy and had an auction sale March 13, 1967. That same day, we moved to Lafond to our new home which we had bought from Léo Mailloux at N.W. 32-56-10-W4. Aladin and I, Paulette, worked on the farm till 1972, milking cows, feeding pigs and chickens. Then we rented the land out for one year. In 1973, we sold our land to Raymond LaBrecque, keeping the acreage and buildings. Aladin then accepted em-

ployment at I.G.A. in St. Paul on April 1st, 1974 and is still working there. We have put our place for sale with the intentions of moving to St. Paul. We are raising a family of six children. They consist of five girls and one boy:

Monique, born June 26, 1966

Jacqueline, born September 19, 1967

Giselle, born September 29, 1968

Rachel, born February 8, 1973

Lise, born November 22, 1974 and

Philip, born April 20, 1977.

The girls are all presently going to Lafond School and Philip is still at home.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF ALCIDE HENRI FOISY & ALBINA OUELLET

submitted by Alcide Henri Foisy

I was born in Lafond, Alberta, December 27th, 1913. My parents were Olivier Foisy and Ida May Dupuis.

My father, Olivier, was born in Ontario, January 1st, 1885, the son of Alphonse Foisy and Ozine Pigeau. He had six brothers and three sisters: Johnny, Daniel, Arthur, Wilfred, Aladin and Gaspard. Camilla, (Mrs. Emile Malo), Eva (Mrs. Paradis), and Louise.

My grandfather Alphonse Foisy was born in Ontario in 1864. My grandmother Ozine Pigeau was born in 1863, in the same province.

In 1886, my granddad and his family, his two brothers, Marcel and Edmond and their families, came out west by wagon train to Fort Saskatche-



Four Generations taken in 1935.

Left to right: Grandpa Alphonse Foisy with Victor Foisy; Olivier Foisy; and Alcide.



The Alcide Foisy Family: Left to right back row: Victor, Armand, Georgette, and Raymond.
Front row: Alcide and Albina Foisy on their 45th Anniversary.

wan. There they filed on homesteads. Due to lack of drinking water, two years later, they moved to North Dakota, U.S.A.

Their plans were to grow corn and raise cattle. Somehow this did not prove successful. They moved back to Canada in 1905. The women and children were left in Fort Saskatchewan while the men went looking for land. They chose to file homesteads in Lafond and Foisy, Alberta.

The Foisy brothers helped each other to clear the land and build shacks. As crude as these buildings were, it was a home to bring the families to. All had large families and as the years went by, there were over one hundred Foisys living in and around the Foisy district.

My mother Ida May Dupuis was born February 22, 1892 in Morinville, Alberta. My parents were married in Legal, Alberta in 1909. In 1913 they came to Lafond, filed a homestead one mile east and one mile south of Lafond. There they spent most of their lives.



Taken in 1935: Left to right: Mariette Foisy; Grandpa Alphonse Foisy; Grandma Foisy; and Rolande Foisy.

There were seven children in our family. The oldest, Roseanne Ida May, was born March 15, 1910, and died May 8th, 1913. The second girl was Yvonne (Mrs. Brouard) born April 29, 1911. A son, Victor Olivier was born October 16, 1912, but passed away January 17th, 1920. Then I came along. Next to me was Alfred Hector Victor Foisy born May 10th, 1921 — died April 4th, 1927. Mariette Florence now (Mrs. Surtel) born May 17th, 1930, Lorraine Laura now (Mrs. Papp) was born January 5th, 1936.

My dad often talked about the hard winter of 1919-1920. Due to crop failure and an early winter, feed for cattle and horses was almost nil. Thirty-seven head of cattle were taken to Fort Saskatchewan, only seven survived. Hay was selling for \$120.00 per ton. Oat bundles were 25 cents each. To help out the U.F.A. government gave the farmers a grant. It was called the "Cow Bill". This debt hung over their heads till the Social Credit Government defeated them and wiped the whole debt off, a weight off the farmers' shoulders.

That same winter, Dad went hunting and trapping around Moose Lake, leaving Mom and the children to keep the home fires burning and look after the stock. All the horses except one team were turned loose to fare for themselves. The cattle, seven head we kept in a small circle, surrounded by six to seven feet of snow. How they survived was a miracle. They were so thin and weak, we had quite a job getting them back home. It was my job to feed them once a day. I recall my derriere dragging in the snow, it was that deep. Of course I wasn't very tall.

My Dad had done well on his hunting trip and brought home furs of all descriptions. The pelts were a good price and this kept us going till after harvest in the fall.

My sister Yvonne and I, walked the two miles to the Lafond School. On Sunday, the whole family attended mass. Father Tessier was the parish Priest for many years. Hervé Malo and I were the altar servers.

Hector Jean, was going to College St. Jean in Edmonton and I decided to go too. I spent a couple of years there and that ended my years of schooling.

On April 26, 1933, I married Albina Ouellet, the best dancer Lafond ever had. She is the second daughter of Eugène Ouellet and Marie Louise Lapierre, born October 6th, 1914 in Brosseau, Alberta.

We were married by Father Boucher. I remember there was quite a lot of snow in the fields and side roads. Some came to the wedding in sleighs following roadsides, others in democrats following the muddy roads. Our wedding vehicle was a team of horses and a democrat. We really travelled in grand style.

The wedding dance was held at my parent's home. I can still see my sister Yvonne dancing in



Taken in 1945, left to right: Mrs. Olivier Foisy; Yvonne Foisy; Mariette and Lorraine Foisy.

the water trough. It was the custom in those days, for any brother or sister age 25 or over to perform in this manner. It was a belief they would remain single always. This dance was great fun for the guests. We all had a grand time. The music was supplied by Cyprien Foisy, Armand Vincent, and Ernest Didier.

Our first home was on a farm, half a mile south of Lafond. There we had our first three children, Victor, Georgette and Raymond. Armand our fourth child was born in Mission, B.C.

In 1938, I went into business for myself. I bought my first truck from Tony Désaulniers, hauled grain to St. Paul and Two Hills, cattle, hogs and sheep to Edmonton. A year or so later, my brother-in-law Edgar McCullough took over the truck and I went to work in the St. Paul Co-op in the hardware department. Edgar McCullough joined the army. I wasn't too happy working in a store so I went back to trucking. This I did till we moved out of St. Paul to New Westminster, B.C. We only stayed there for a couple of years.

In Dewdney, B.C. there were a lot of berry farms left by Japanese people, who unfortunately had been placed in concentration camps. We lived on one of these farms till 1943. We moved to Lillooet, B.C. where we still reside. We purchased a service station. We named it "Al's Auto Service." Besides selling gas, we have two bays for repairs on cars. We have now added to our business; car accessories and sporting goods.

Our son, Armand has joined our company and it is now called "Foisy Automotive Ltd". Our oldest son, Victor married Cecile Surtel. They have three children, Marvin, Denise, and Paul. Victor is the

Manager of Overwaitee Food store in Coquitlam, B.C.

Georgette remained single. She is the Administrative Officer for Ministry of Forests in Ottawa.

Raymond works for B.C. Assessment Authority, a crown corporation, as professional appraiser "Area Assessor". He married Rita Emmington. They have three girls: Lori, Susan and Beverly.

Armand married Ida Johnston. They have one son Brent. My father Olivier Foisy was laid to rest in Mission, B.C., May 26, 1954. My mother, Ida May Dupuis died March 12, 1946, and was buried at Lafond.

MR. ALPHONSE AND OZINE FOISY (NEE PIGEAU)

by Helene Coopey and Armand Foisy

Alphonse, oldest son of Eugene and Angele Foisy (nee Poirier), was born at Iles des Allumettes, Quebec, in 1860. In 1884, he married Marguerite Ozine Pigeau, daughter of Michael and Elmire Pigeau (nee Ladouceur) at Timmins, Ontario. Here their four older children were born; namely Olivier in 1885, Johnny 1887, Aladin 1888, and Daniel in 1890.

In 1892, Alphonse and his family came west with his parents, Eugene and Angele Foisy, determined to find a better future. They packed their belongings in covered wagons and travelled west, following the railway and surveyor lines. On the way they stopped to rest, giving them a chance to hunt and fish for food.

Finally three months later, they reached Lamoureux, reuniting with sisters, Elodie Marion and Caroline Gauthier, who had moved earlier with their families. Here Alphonse and his family settled on a homestead where a fifth child, their first daughter, Camilla was born in 1895.



Mr. and Mrs. Alphonse Foisy — Taken in 1914 in Foisy, Alberta.



The Alphonse and Ozine Foisy Family — Taken by their home near Lac Sante. l.-r. Wilfred, Alphonse, Arthur, Gaspard, Eva, Ozine holding Louisa, Camilla, Daniel, Aladin. Olivier and Johnny are missing.

They lived in Lamoureux for five years, but unable to find a good supply of water, they decided to move. In the spring of 1897, Alphonse and his family accompanied by his parents and his two brothers, Marcel and Edmond, left for the States.

They arrived in Leroy, North Dakota seven weeks later. During their five years at Leroy, in the parish of St. Joseph three more children were born; Wilfred, July 24, 1897, Eva, in the year 1900, and Arthur November 10, 1901.

Experiencing drought, wind storms and poor crops, they decided to leave North Dakota and move back to Canada. This time they packed all their belongings, including their horses and wagons on the train, reaching Calgary in 1902. From there they travelled by horse and wagon to Lamoureux. Alphonse worked at the brick yard approximately three years, in the meantime another son Gaspard was born in 1904.

Having heard there was plenty of wild life and water, Alphonse and Ozine decided to move to the Foisy district, crossing the North Saskatchewan River May 1, 1905, near Brosseau. They settled on the S.E. 21-57-11-4 and built a shack by Lac Sante.



The Alphonse Foisy threshing crew of 1911, posing after a hair cut at Benoit's barber shop in St. Paul. Back row: C. Labonte (feeder), Benoit (barber), J. Journault (bagger), C. Desaulniers (pitcher), Daniel Foisy (tankman). Front row: O. Desaulniers (pitcher), Johnny Foisy (feeder), E. Lamoureux (pitcher), J. Bergeron (Engineer).

In 1909 another child Louisa was born, making a family of ten children.

In 1918, Alphonse built a new house on the N.W. 21-56-11-4 with lumber milled from the Foisy sawmill. This is where they lived to their retirement. Their son Arthur acquired this farm and lived there for many years.

Alphonse passed away March 29, 1940 and his wife, Marguerite Ozine, passed away August 4, 1947. They are both buried in the Lafond Cemetery. Their children were:

Olivier, married Idamay Dupuis and had 5 children.

Johnny, married Emma Bergeron and had 9 children.

Aladin, married Laurence Marion and had 7 children.

Daniel, married Theresa Labine and had 9 children.

Camilla, married Emile Malo and had 11 children.

Wilfred, married Madeleine Paradis and had 13 children.

Eva, married Albert Paradis and had 9 children.

Arthur, married Marie Paradis and had 4 children.

Gaspard, married Denise Vincent and had 1 child.

Augustine Blanchette and had 6 children.

Louisa, married Ernest Charbonneau and had 3 children.

ARTHUR AND MARIE FOISY (NEE PARADIS)

by Marie Foisy

I was born on February 6, 1906 near the village of Whitford Alberta. My parents, Alderic Paradis and Margaret Villeneuve homesteaded in this area.

In 1918, when I was twelve years old, we moved to a farm near Foisy, Alberta. I had four brothers and seven sisters. We were all expected to help with the work on the farm.



Complete Arthur Foisy Family: Anna, Juliette, Marie (mom), Arthur (dad), Ernest, Aladin. 1958.



Arthur and Marie Foisy.

I was married in the Lafond church, on November, 1926, to Arthur Foisy. We farmed near my home in Foisy.

Arthur and I worked hard on our farm. The house work was not as easy as it is today. Washing clothes was one big job. I had to heat the water on the stove, then rub-rub-rub- on the old scrub board. Bringing in the frozen clothes in the wintertime was a sure way to nip the fingers.

Threshing was another big job. I would be feeding from fifteen to twenty men. I would just get one meal over and it was time to begin the next one.

We moved to another farm where we stayed for seven years. Arthur became ill and was confined to a wheelchair for the rest of his life. I devoted all my time to caring for him. I had a big responsibility. Arthur died in 1972, when he was 70 years old.

We raised two sons and two daughters. I am very proud of my children. They were all married in the Catholic church.

I came to St. Paul and rented living accommodations from Mr. Poirier for a time. I then moved to Mrs. Thobens', where I resided for three years. In 1978, I moved into Heritage Homes when they first opened. I enjoy my life here, visiting with my family and friends.



Daniel and Therese Foisy's Family, son of Alphonse Foisy. Taken in 1938. Back row: Left to Right Raymond, Theresa May, Emile (deceased) Therese (Mother), Alphonse, Daniel. Front row: Rita, Howard, Dave, Harvey.



Wedding of Daniel and Therese Labine. Taken January 8, 1917.
Resided at Foisy — 1917 - 1932.

EDMOND AND DELLIS FOISY (NEE LOGOZAR)

by Dellis Foisy

On October 22, 1955, Edmond Foisy, only son of Aimé and Gabrielle Foisy (née Bergeron), was born at the St. Theresa Hospital in St. Paul. He took his education at Lafond and St. Paul, graduating in 1974. He then farmed with Foisy Bros. for two years.

On August 14, 1976 Edmond married me Dellis Logozar of Brosseau. I was born on February 22, 1958, at the Two Hills Municipal Hospital. I am the only daughter of Alex and Jean Logozar (née Bereska).

I took my education at Two Hills and St. Paul, graduating in 1976. I was also a part of the Two Hills Ukrainian Dancers for 6 years. The dancers performed at annual concerts and other locations across Alberta. They also danced at The Ukrainian Festival at Dauphin, Manitoba and at The World's Fair at Spokane, Washington.

After their marriage, Edmond continued to farm for one more year. He then got a job at The Two Hills Chemical Company as a Laborer. After training, he became an Operator in the Calcium-Chloride Department.



Taken August 14, 1976. Edmond and Dellis Foisy's wedding picture.

On November 18, 1977, a daughter, Janice Lynn was born at the St. Theresa Hospital in St. Paul.

The family moved to Barrhead, Alberta in June 1979, where Edmond was employed by Plains-Western Gas and Electric Company.

On January 1, 1980, a son, Curtis Alexander Shane was born at the Barrhead General Hospital. Curtis was the 1980 New Year's Baby in Barrhead.



Taken 1981. Edmond and Dellis and Family: L-R Curtis, Edmond, Dellis, Janice.

Edmond and his family moved back to the Lafond area in February of 1980 and are still residing there.

During his spare time, Edmond enjoys going deer hunting with his friends. The family also enjoy many activities together such as fishing, camping, and snowmobiling.

Edmond is presently employed at L. & M. International Equipment Ltd. in St. Paul.

MR. & MRS. EDMOND FOISY(NEE CHARBONNEAU)

by Prosper Foisy

Mr. Edmond Foisy, youngest son of Eugène and Angèle Foisy (née Poirier) was born at Iles des Allumette, Quebec in 1866. In 1895, he married Marie Charbonneau at Lamoureux, Alberta. That same year they moved to Leroy, North Dakota U.S.A. and lived there for five years. In 1900, they journeyed back to Lamoureux, Alberta. Five years later, in 1905, they left for better hunting grounds and filed for a homestead the N.E. 20-56-11-4 in the



Mr. Edmond Foisy married Marie Louise Charbonneau. 1895



Mr. Edmond Foisy's house in 1935. Standing is their youngest daughter Helen Foisy.

Foisy area. This quarter has always remained in the family, and today is owned by a grandson, Roland. Edmond had a family of five children at this point. He was 60 miles from the nearest railway, which was at Vegreville. A trail was their only road.

Upon his arrival in Foisy, he cut logs and built himself a log cabin with a roof made of sod. His 303 rifle and double-barrel shot-gun (12 guage) served to hunt wild life which was important to his survival. The oxen plowed the land that Edmond had cleared with his axe. He had a steel plow and would exchange it with other settlers for a cultivator, because he did not have all the equipment necessary for cultivation.

As the years went by, Edmond Foisy would freight his pelts and grain to Vegreville. He would buy or exchange these goods for some twine, yarn, and cotton flannelette by the yard. One trip would take one week with horses. He freighted whiskey to St. Paul. At times the freighters would break open a case, but made sure that the whiskey bottles remained sealed. How to get a drink? They would break the bottle from the bottom and blame it on the rugged trail. The whiskey was strained through a rag just to make sure there was no broken glass. ONE WAY TO GET A FREE DRINK ON THE INSURANCE COMPANY!

Once a year, they would attend the Roman Catholic Church in Brosseau for their Easter duties. Mr. Foisy helped in the construction of the Big Fish Lake School, where his nine children received their rural education from grades one to eight.

In 1930, we should note that wheat was sold for 20¢ a bushel. Eggs sold for 3¢ a dozen delivered

at the home. Goods were exchanged amongst neighbors; e.g. wild meat for beef, pork or chicken. Eggs were traded at the store for tea or coffee. There wasn't much money in those days.

Mr. Edmond Foisy was fortunate to have no tragedies in his family. None of his sons had to go to war. The family remembers the most unpleasant moment being when Mrs. Foisy would make this paste out of sulphur powder and everybody had to take a full teaspoon of this home remedy — supposedly good for all parts of the body — SPRING TUNE-UP!

Mrs. Foisy would be very perturbed when her husband (also a trapper) would bring dead frozen wild animals into the cabin to thaw, so he could skin them. The smell was out of this world, and at such times, she would disappear upstairs until the whole operation was over.

The pioneers had their annual picnic at Lac Santé, at that time called "Big Fish Lake." Mr. Al-ladin Foisy built the first store in Foisy — and the picnic would take place just south of it, near the lake shore.

Weddings were very plain and inexpensive as they took place at home. Members of the family would entertain the newly-weds by playing the fiddle and toasting them with a little "moonshine." Mr. Edmond Foisy's sons, Eugene, Prosper, or Gilbert would take turns at the fiddle — no other instrument was available at that time in the Foisy area.



Mr. & Mrs. Edmond Foisy August 1935.



Mr. & Mrs. Edmond Foisy and family: 1935 L to R: Henry, Prosper, Gilbert, Marcel, Joe, Eugene, Mr. & Mrs. Edmond Foisy, Aldina Beaupre, Jumina Delisle, Merlida Foisy, and Helen Foisy.

When winter, or the first snow came, Edmond would pack his gear and leave with his dogs for some weeks at a time, setting his traps, or hunting wildlife. At times he would sleep in the snow with his dogs as his only companions. As the years went by, and his children grew, the older boys would accompany him on these hunting trips. They built a log cabin on the far side of the lake providing shelter to make their expeditions more comfortable. Mrs. Foisy would stay home with the younger children and pray that the trappers would return safely with meat and pelts. During these lonesome absences, she would knit socks and mitts, or sew by hand, the family clothes from the yard-goods that had been received in exchange for pelts.

We also know that whenever political meetings were held at the Big Fish Lake School (Foisy), Edmond Foisy would be there to enjoy the discussions.

The family was well organized. The children had to do the chores. The boys cut firewood, fed the horses, cattle and the chickens. They would also bring the water. Mrs. Foisy was known as a very good gardener and knitter of socks and mitts.

Leisure time was spent telling stories, playing ball (twine was used to make the ball), anti-high-over, skipping rope or walking. In winter, snow houses or forts were built where again, you would



Edmond Foisy's log cabin on East side of Big Fish Lake (Lac Santé) used for shelter while hunting and trapping. Sitting by open fire L to R Edmond and son Eugene. 1912.

witness a real good snow-ball fight in the spring. You were sure to see one of the boys with a "Black-eye".

In 1941 Mr. Edmond Foisy passed away, leaving his loving wife a widow. Mrs. Foisy died in 1966. They had 9 children:

Eugene Foisy, born in 1897 in Leroy, N.D., married Rose Malo, 8 children. He died in 1975. Aldina Foisy, born 1899 in Leroy N.D., married Charles Beaupre, 12 children, lives in Bonnyville, Alberta.

Marcel Joe Foisy, born in 1900 in Leroy, N.D., died in 1979.

Gilbert Foisy, born in 1902 in Lamoureux, Alberta, married to Yvonne Malo, 5 children. Lives in Edmonton, Alberta.

Jumina Foisy, born in 1904 in Lamoureux, Alberta. Married Clemenly Delisle. 9 children. Lives in St. Paul, Alberta.

Prosper Foisy, born in 1907 in St. Paul, Alberta. Married Alma Fradette. 3 children. Lives in St. Paul, Alberta.

Merilda Foisy, born in 1908, lives in Edmonton, Alberta.

Henry Foisy, born in 1913 in St. Paul, married Rita Ternovoy, 3 children, died 1979.

Helen Foisy, born in 1916, lives in Edmonton, Alberta.



Elzear Foisy, his daughter Lea (Mrs. Emile Lefebvre) and her oldest daughter Lorraine and grandmother Foisy (nee Tharcille Pigeau).

ELZEAR AND MARIA FOISY (NEE ROBINSON)

by Lea Lefebvre

Mr. Elzear Foisy was born in Bonfield, Ontario July 17, 1885. As a child he lived in North Dakota with his parents Marcel and Tharcille Foisy. At the age of 10, he came to Canada with his parents. His grandfather (Eugene Foisy Sr.) had scouted the area and sent word for his sons and their families to come Northwest. They arrived in Lamoureux in 1896 where the grandfather met them. There, they squatted for some six months.

Mr. Elzear Foisy filed his homestead 3 miles southeast of Lafond. There he built a shelter for himself, a log cabin covered with sod and a log barn for his two horses. Mr. Foisy plowed his own quarter section of land. His basic machines were a plow and harrows. At times he would freight groceries from Vegreville to Cold Lake. Vegreville was their nearest railway.

In January 1913, he married Maria Robinson, daughter of George Robinson and Whilemine Blanchette, the beginning of a new life together.

After some three years on his homestead, he moved to another farm, four miles southeast of



Elzear's wife 78 years old. Now living at Parkland Nursing Home.

Lafond (Mr. Alari had lived on this farm before). Probably because the soil was of better quality, Mr. Elzear Foisy made his third move and this last one was made to Foisy, Alberta. His nearest neighbour was Mr. Albert Paradis.

He had a few head of cattle, some pigs and a few chickens. His children received rural education at Foisy School. Once a year they had a Christmas Concert at school, when the children would receive candy, peanuts and many home-made toys. Amongst these toys were wooden tops made from empty spools of thread, others were made with a string and large button. This last when stretched and released would make noise. A visit from Santa Claus was always appreciated and enjoyed. Most of the time Elzear would play the part of Santa, often surprising his own children with his disguise.

During the year church socials were held where people would play cards and participate in the basket social. At times young girls were happy but others would be unhappy, if their basket of lunch was sold to a higher bidder than their boyfriend. One had to be sociable at such events.

Mr. Elzear Foisy made family parties at which his neighbours and friends would join for an evening of fun. Some furniture was set aside except for chairs and benches. At time dancing was so wild that the stove pipe would come down. Dandelion or wheat wine was served on such occasions. Mr. Elzear and family loved visiting their neighbours. They would talk, play cards and the children would visit among themselves.

His wife Maria enjoyed wild berry picking with the children. She would also pick yarrow, commonly called turkey weed. She would take the flowers and leaves and put them to dry, then would store them in a jar. Anytime someone in the family would have a high fever, she would boil some of the leaves and flowers with water and serve it as



Elzear Foisy, son of Marcel Foisy and Tharcille Pigeau, was married to Maria Robinson, daughter of George Robinson and Whilemine Blanchette in 1913, in St. Paul R.C. Church by Father Therien.

tea to combat the fever. This was very effective and quick-acting.

Maria always had dry mustard on hand. If someone had a chest cold or sore throat she would prepare a mustard plaster by mixing the dry mustard with the white of an egg (to prevent burning) and apply it to the chest or throat to relieve the congestion. For an ear ache, Mr. Foisy would blow pipe tobacco smoke into the sore ear.

The family garments were made at home. Flour bags were bleached or dyed for shirts and dresses. Coats were remodelled to fit the children. Knitting was very popular amongst the women. Mrs. Foisy was kept busy knitting socks, mitts, scarves and toques. Any left over wool would be used in quilt making. Blue denim was bought by the yard for men's trousers and jackets.

Gardening was a family project. Everybody had to help. While Mr. Foisy would look after the horses

and pigs, the children with their mother saw that the cows (6 or 7) were milked. The milk was separated and the cream sold. This was the weekly cash crop. The skimmed milk was fed to the calves and pigs. The children also looked after the chickens. The cleaning of the grain was also done on the farm. At threshing time Mr. Foisy would join the threshing crew with his team of horses. This was the way he would get his little crop threshed. Ten to fifteen men would be involved in the above operation. The grain was all bagged at the time because there were no granaries in those days.

Mr. Foisy always found it comforting to tease his brother-in-law about political events. This would bring him to Big Fish Lake School whenever a politician would come around.

Some of the games played by the children in their idle time were: hide and go seek, hop scotch, anti-high over, soft ball, reading and sliding. Squaw wrestling was enjoyed by many spectators. Mr. Elzear had one of the neighbour's boy (5 year old) believe that if he would put pepper on a board in a tree he would catch a magpie. He enjoyed



The children of Elzear and Maria Foisy. Left to right: Adrienne (Mrs. Antonio Marceau) of Girouville, Alberta. Laurent who passed away at the age of 50 years, in 1968. Alderic, in centre front, is living in Riviere Qui Barre, Lea (Mrs. Emile Lefebvre) St. Paul.

teasing and playing with children and is remembered as a nice joyful man.

During the depression years Mr. Foisy took in many passers-by. Being along the highway to Vegreville many people from Saskatchewan would stop over.

His two sons Laurent and Alderic went in training during the Second World War for some six months as foot soldiers.

After 1938, he made an addition to their little house, two bedrooms and a living room with cement foundation. In 1954 electricity was brought to the farm. This was the biggest luxury to be found.

Their daughters were married in the Lafond Roman Catholic Church by Father Mailloux. The eldest Lea left with her husband Emile Lefebvre for Edmonton by car on their honeymoon. Adrienne married Antonio Marceau. After the ceremony the reception was held at the Lavoie Hotel in St. Paul followed by a dance in the Lafond Hall (Church basement at the time).

Mr. Foisy passed away at the age of 72 on Nov. 11, 1957. His wife Maria is now residing at the Parkland Nursing Home in St. Paul. Their children are:

1. Léa, born August 26, 1915. Now married (Mrs. Emile Lefebvre) 10 children. Now living in St. Paul, Alberta.
2. Florence, died on November 16, 1916.
3. Laurent, born December 30, 1918. Died July 5, 1968.
4. Adrienne, born August 22, 1919. Married Antonio Marceau. They have 2 boys. Presently living in Girouxville, Alberta.
5. Laurette, born January 4, 1920. Died 1927.
6. Alderic, born September 2, 1923. Married Marie Boothsman. They have 5 children. Presently living in Riviere Qui Barre, Alberta.

EUGÈNE AND ANGÈLE FOISY (NÉE POIRIER) Great Grand Parents

by Helene Coopey and Armand Foisy



Taken 1905, Foisy, Alberta. Eugene and Angele Foisy their first log shack built in 1903, by Big Fish Lake.



Taken 1890 — Henri and Caroline Gauthier, oldest daughter of Eugene and Angele Foisy.

Eugène and Angèle Foisy (née Poirier), were married at Iles des Allumettes, Quebec, in 1855, where their six children were born. They moved to Pembroke, Ontario, where they lived until approximately 1885. Their next move was to Timmins, Ontario, until 1892, when the Foisy's decided to come West.

They packed their belongings in covered wagons and followed the railway and surveyor's lines across the country, in search of a new and better land. The journey to Lamoureux near Fort Saskatchewan took approximately three months. Here Eugène and Angèle met their daughters Elodie, Mrs. Jean Baptiste Marion and Caroline, Mrs. Henri Gauthier, who had come here a few years earlier with their husbands and families.

They lived there approximately five years, but unable to find a good supply of water, in 1897, they left Lamoureux and moved to the States. The three sons with their wives and families accompanied them on this move. Seven weeks later they arrived in Leroy North Dakota, joining some friends, the Pigeaus who had moved there a few years earlier.

Here they farmed for five years, but experiencing drought, strong winds and poor crops, they decided to move back to Alberta. This time they were determined to find a better location to settle.

They loaded all their belongings, including their horses and wagons on the train, reaching Calgary in 1902, then they travelled to Lamoureux by wagon.

The men travelled further, leaving the women and children in Lamoureux, until a place and shelter could be provided. Eugène and his sons crossed the North Saskatchewan River and came to Big Fish Lake, known as Lac Sante. They decided to settle here and built a log shack located on the S.W. 21-56-11-4, which later became Alphonse's homestead. Logs and rails in the immediate vicinity were used to build the sod covered shack.

They depended greatly on wild life and fish for food because stores were few and far apart.

Other log shacks were built to accommodate the rest of the family, within two years all the family was united again.

On January 4, 1906, Eugène, filed for a homestead the N.W. 21-56-11-4, where later the Foisy Store was built by his grand son Aladin, son of Alphonse, in 1918.

Eugène did not live long enough to enjoy his homestead because he passed away the same year and was buried, December 30, 1906, at 72 years of age, in the Roman Catholic Cemetery in St. Paul.

Two years later his wife Angèle passed away and was buried September 11, 1908, beside her husband Eugène.

They had a family of 6 children;
Caroline, (1856) married Henri Gauthier had 7 children
Olivier, (1858) Deceased 1860 at 2 yrs. of age
Alphonse, (1860) married Ozine Pigeau had 10 children
Elodie, (1861) married Jean Baptiste Marion had 9 children
Marcel, (1865) married Tharcil Pigeau had 7 children
Edmond, (1866) married Marie Louise Charbonneau had 9 children

EUGÈNE AND ROSE FOISY (NÉE MALO)

by Aimé Foisy

Eugène, oldest son of Edmond and Marie Louise Foisy (née Charbonneau), was born May 20, 1897 in Leroy, North Dakota, USA. He was also the grandson of Eugène and Angèle Foisy, (the first Foisy's to settle in the district). In 1905, at the age of 8, he moved to the Foisy district with his parents. They journeyed by horse and wagon, crossing the North Saskatchewan River on a raft near Brosseau. There were no schools at the time so Eugène, as a young boy went hunting and fishing with his dad. Money and food were scarce so they relied mostly on wild life for survival.

In 1906 the Big Fish Lake School District was established, and by August 1907, classes began permitting Eugène to attend school (1907-1913)



Taken 1967 — Eugene and Rose during coffee break in the field.

with Miss Blanche Lafond (Mrs. Johnny Brosseau) as teacher. In summer, he attended religious studies (Catechism) in Brosseau. He would walk 7 miles there and back daily for 3 consecutive weeks.

After he left school, he helped his father on the farm, clearing and breaking more land, and erecting new buildings. They hauled their grain, pelts and livestock to Vegreville, the nearest railway station, a distance of 60 miles. On their return journey, they freighted merchandise such as; twine, flour, whiskey etc., for local merchants. These trips usually took seven to eight days.

He was interested in farming, so at the age of 18, he filed for a homestead (N.W. 16-56-11-4) which was a fraction adjoining Lac Sante. In 1924, he bought the S.W. 20-56-11-4 from his uncle Baptiste Marion for \$800.00.

In 1926, having more land to develop and more grain to harvest, Eugène bought his first tractor and



Taken in Edmonton 1928 —
Wedding picture of Eugene and
Rose Foisy (nee Malo)



The Eugene Foisy's family having a break: Sitting on pick-up of combine L to R: Alma, Roland, Eugene, Roger, Rose. On combine — Hubert, Julien, Aime, his wife Gabrielle holding Lorraine.

threshing machine in partnership with his dad; however, the tillage of the land was still done with horses. In 1928 he purchased his first automobile — a Durant Coupe — his pride and joy.

As a young man, he enjoyed playing baseball and was part of the Foisy ball team — a team he was very proud of. He enjoyed playing the fiddle for his own enjoyment, also for house parties, dances and weddings. He often reminisced of his nights out playing cards at Frank and Charlie Desaulniers' place with his buddies.

In 1928, Eugène met Rose Malo, daughter of Richmond and Delvina Malo (née Caron). In 1908, Rose, at the age of six months, had come to Lafond with her parents from Hocholaga, Quebec. She attended school in Lafond from 1917-1923, then helped her parents on the farm.

On May 28, 1928, Eugène and Rose were married in St. Bernard's Roman Catholic Church of Lafond with Reverend Father Tessier officiating. They spent their honeymoon in Edmonton.

They lived with Eugène's parents while their small frame house was being built, and by July they

moved into their new home. This was the beginning of a new era for them. The only furniture was a home-made table, 4 chairs, a bed and feather-filled mattress and a wood stove to cook their meals and keep the house warm.

In the 1930's, time of the depression when wheat sold for 40¢ per bushel, hogs 15¢ per lb., etc., one had to have courage and determination to venture in the farming business.

The first year, Mrs. Foisy had one cow to milk (a gift from her parents), making enough butter for the family and exchanging the surplus at the local Foisy store for sugar, tea, coffee, etc. She always seeded a large garden of fruit and vegetables to satisfy the growing family. She sewed most of the garments for the family on a pedal Singer sewing machine. She also knitted mitts, socks and sweaters for the entire family.

In 1940, an addition was added to the one room house, including facilities to accommodate the growing family, making life more comfortable. More farm buildings were built as the need arose.



Taken in 1950 — Mr. & Mrs.
Eugene Foisy and Family. Back
row: Aime, Alma, Hubert, Rita,
Julien. Sitting: Mrs. Foisy,
Lionel, Roland, Roger and Mr.
Foisy.

Eugène was always active in his community. He was a trustee and Secretary-Treasurer of Big Fish Lake School District #1494 from 1926-1938 with a salary of \$20.00 per year. In 1931 and 1932 he was also hired Secretary-Treasurer for the Ma-meastic School District. Eugène was very busy with the farm and was often away from the house. This gave Mrs. Foisy the opportunity to meet English speaking neighbours, who came to pay their school taxes. Knowing only the French language, communication was rather difficult at first, but she soon managed to make herself understood.

Eugène was councillor for the Municipal District of Champlain #544 for 10 years. In 1936, he was elected reeve of the council. The Municipal District office was located in Lafond. He also served two terms (1941-1947) as councillor in Division #4 for the Municipal District of St. Paul #542 when the smaller Municipal Districts were amalgamated.

In 1954, through the Champlain Rural Electrification Association, electricity was brought to the farm, replacing their 32-volt power plant which had been used for five years. Eugène was a director,

also chairman of the Champlain R.E.A. for some-time, helping to form this co-op.

Eugène never hesitated to acquire more land and new equipment, thus encouraging his sons to follow in his footsteps. In the early 1950's, the threshing machine was replaced by the modern combine making harvesting faster and easier. He always emphasized the importance of top quality seed, well cultivated land and good livestock.

He was a breeder of purebred hereford cattle, in partnership with his son Julien and always enjoyed attending the Annual Purebred Sales in Edmonton.

Every year on January 6th, (Les Rois) they had a party for their relatives and friends. The festivities began with a turkey dinner with all the trimmings. The rest of the evening was spent dancing, playing cards, singing and reminiscing about old times.

In 1968, Eugène and Rose sold their farms to their sons, Roger acquiring the home place. The first three years of their retirement were spent with him. They never lost interest in farming. They were

always available to run errands for the boys, such as getting repairs and bringing coffee.

To Eugène and Rose harvesting was the most rewarding operation. Eugène enjoyed walking through fields of grain, estimating the quality and yield of the crops. They brought the warm meals that Mrs. Foisy prepared, to the field, then spent hours relaxing and observing the operation.

In August of 1972, they moved to St. Paul but still enjoyed their visits to the farm.

On April 8th, 1975, Eugène passed away at the age of 77 years.

Mrs. Rose Foisy is still living in her home in St. Paul, enjoying good health. She spends a great amount of time visiting and helping her children and is always ready for a good game of cards. Their children are as follows:

Aime, (1929) married Gabrielle Bergeron living in Foisy

Julien, (1930) married Annette Lefebvre living in Foisy

Rita, (1932) married Raymond Desaulniers living in St. Paul

Hubert, (1933) married Claire Parent living in Foisy

Alma, (1937) married Robert Desaulniers living in Edmonton

Lionel, (1940) married Carol Pietrykowski living in Foisy

Roger, (1946) married Antoinette Brousseau living in Foisy

Roland, (1947) married Marie Roscovich living in Lafond.

FOISY, GASPARD (FAMILY)

by Marielle Foisy

Seventh son and ninth child of Alphonse and Ozine (née Pigeau) Foisy, Gaspard was born and baptized on Feb. 4th, 1904, in Lamoureux, Alta. Shortly after his birth, the family moved to Foisy, Alta where he spent his youth.

Gaspard married Denise, daughter of Jean-Baptiste and Eva (née St. Hilaire) Vincent of Brosseau, Alta. Rev. N. Chartrand blessed the union on July 17, 1928. One daughter, Rollande, was born



Taken 1941. Gaspard and Augustine in Ontario.



Rollande and her family. William Goodwin, Audrey, William Jr. Ronald, Vincent, Denise, Ramonde.

on Nov. 1, 1929. The young family spent only a short time together before Denise died on Jan. 9, 1930 at the age of 23 years and 11 months.

The depression years upon them, Gaspard had to earn a living for himself and his daughter other than on a farm. As a man alone, he was unable to take Rollande with him so she remained with her grandparents. He stayed with his brother and sister-in-law Daniel and Thérèse. He cut wood and hauled it to St. Paul for approximately \$2.50 a load. Gaspard found it tedious being a lumberman and



Gaspard Jr. and Lorraine Foisy and Family, Marc, Renée, Diane.



Leo and Cheryl Chapdeleine (nee Foisy) and family: Morris, Nicole.

shortly after, moved on to Vancouver. Gold panning with his cousin John Marion was among his many endeavors.

In 1938 Gaspard returned to Alberta and found work on a farm in Rockyford, Alta. In 1940 he heard that Augustine Blanchette was working at the Holy Cross Hospital in Calgary and hitched a ride there to see her.

Augustine is the daughter of Fabien and Eveline (née Robinson) Blanchette and was born at L'Anse Pleureuse, Gaspé, P.Q.



Marielle Foisy.

Gaspard and Augustine were married on June 4, 1941 in the Holy Family Church, Calgary, Alta. The marriage was blessed by Rev. O'Dea. Gaspard had enlisted in the Canadian army and on June 5, 1941 was officially advised to leave for basic training in Camrose, Alta. After three months in Camrose he was transferred to Barryfield, Ont for further training in the mechanics corp. Augustine remained behind until Sept in order to terminate the packing etc.

At the end of Sept 1941, Augustine took the long bus ride to Kingston, Ont., to join Gaspard. In those days the only route for the bus was through the States and it was a very tiring trip. She left on a Tuesday and did not arrive in Kingston until midnight of the following Saturday. A few months passed, then in January, 1942 Gaspard was transferred to London, Ont. where he remained until the spring of the same year. Once again he was transferred to Kingston, Ont and on Aug. 6, 1942, their first daughter Marielle was born.

In Nov 1942, Gaspard was transferred West, this time to Shilo, Man. Since this base did not have accommodations for families, Augustine and 3 month old Marielle returned to St. Paul via train. Another long ride . . . even Edmonton to St. Paul took hours: 12 noon to 8 p.m. The weather was very bad and it was a very tired Augustine and daughter who were met by her brother Joseph Blanchette. They stayed with Augustine's mother, Eveline Blanchette for a few days, then were driven by sleigh to Foisy and the residence of Gaspard's mother Ozine. His father had passed away earlier. They remained in Foisy through the winter months, and in May, 1943, Gaspard was again transferred to Kingston, Ont., requiring another train trip for the family.



Leon and Gisele Vallee (nee Foisy) and family: Andre, Daniel.



Michel Guy and Valerie Foisy and son Michel Guy Jr.

After only one year, Gaspard was transferred overseas. A short week of furlough was allowed in which to find a residence for his family, so they returned to St. Paul, Alta. and Gaspard bought a small house, and moved his family into it. He then zig-zagged the ocean for England.

In Sept., 1944, Gaspard Jr. was born. Gaspard did not see his son until he was 15 months old. The war ended in the spring of 1945, and Gaspard was home for Christmas of the same year. He was officially discharged from the army in Jan., 1946.

The family remained together until Gaspard's mother felt sick, and moved to Lafond to be with her daughter Camilla, where she died a short time after. On Apr. 20, 1947, another daughter, Cheryl was born and on Jan. 14, 1950 another daughter, Gisèle. On Mar. 6, 1952 a son, Guy was born.

In 1953, the Foisy family moved to St. Albert, the older girls going to the Sacred Heart Convent in Legal, Alta. On Jan. 6, 1955 the last daughter, Claudette was born in Edmonton at the General Hospital.

In 1956, on Sept. 5, Gaspard suffered a heart attack and died. He was buried in the St. Albert cemetery. With her children ranging in age from 14 years to a little over 1 year, Augustine moved

to Legal to be nearer her daughters until the spring of 1957, when she moved back to St. Paul.

From St. Paul, Gaspard's children continued their education; either going to University or College in France, Quebec, Ontario or Edmonton and Vermilion.

Now that the children, and the foster children have all left home, Augustine feels free to travel. In 1978 Augustine and Marielle went to Europe on a tour. This included Fatima, Lourdes, Rome, Assisi, Paris, Capri, Pompei, etc. In 1979, they spent three weeks in Israel visiting the land of the Bible and in 1980 decided to stay nearer home and toured the West Coast with Rollande and her husband. Gaspard's children, ranging from the eldest to the youngest are as follows:

ROLLANDE — (daughter of Gaspard and Denise), married William GOODWIN in 1950. They have six children: Audrey (married to Remi HANDFIELD — 3 children); William Jr. (married to Janice POWELL); Ronald; Vincent; Denise (married to John LISCHUK) and Ramonde. They make their home in Fort Saskatchewan and William works as a troublehead operator for Calgary Power.

MARIELLE — lives in St. Paul, a civilian member of the RCMP and works as a Telecommunications Operator.

GASPARD jr — married Lorraine VAN BRABANT. They have three children: Marc, Renée and Diane, and live in Sherwood Park. Gaspard works as a communications electrician for AGT, and Lorraine is head steno of the Leduc Strathcona Health Unit.

CHERYL — married to Leo CHAPDELAIN of Mallaig. They live in Fort Saskatchewan and have two children: Morris and Nicole. Cheryl is in the teaching profession in the Fort and Léo is a salesman with Window Master, Edmonton.

GISELE — married to Leon VALLÉE of Beaumont. They have two children: André and Dan-



Marcel and Claudette Laberge (nee Foisy) and son Garret.

iel and live in Beaumont. Gisele is a librarian at the Beaumont Library (school) and Leon is parts manager at Norden Autohaus, Edmonton. MICHEL GUY — married Valerie KOVACH of St. Paul. They have one child, Michael Guy Jr., and live in Red Deer. Guy is automatic plant technician, C.P.T. and is supervisor of district; Valerie is a steno at the meat plant.

CLAUDETTE — married Marcel LABERGE of St. Vincent; they have one child, Garret, and live in Edmonton. Claudette is presently at home awaiting the arrival of their second child and Marcel is a salesman with Totem Lumber of Edmonton.

MR. HUBERT LÉON FOISY

by Claire Foisy

Hubert Foisy, son of Eugène Foisy and Rose Malo, was born on his dad's homestead in Foisy, Alberta May 6, 1933.

He received his schooling in the Foisy rural school to grade 7, his grade 8 and 9 in Lafond, Alberta, due to the new school bus system.

Hubert farmed with his parents until the age of 24-25. In 1957, he married Claire Parent of Donnelly, Alberta. She taught school in the Peace River District and St. Paul District for some twenty-four years. In 1959, he went farming on his own, mostly grain farming.

He likes playing music; guitar, violin and organ. He loves playing cards and not to forget driving.



Taken 1973-74 Hubert and Claire and Family; L.-R. back row; Bernard, George, Claire, Hubert. Front; Marcel, Paul, Romeo.

Hubert has 5 sons of which 3 are working in Calgary, Alberta, and 2 attending school in St. Paul.

On April 15, 1981, Hubert and family are planning to move to Calgary, Alberta where he will be semi-retired.

Children;

1. Marcel, born July 19, 1958 in St. Paul, Alberta now resides in Calgary.
2. Paul, born November 2, 1960 in St. Paul, now resides in Calgary.
3. George, born December 19, 1961 in St. Paul, now resides in Calgary.
4. Bernard, born June 9, 1964 in St. Paul, resides in Foisy.
5. Romeo, born June 6, 1971 in St. Paul resides in Foisy.

JEAN BAPTISTE (JOHNNY) AND EMMA FOISY (NÉE BERGERON)

by Helene Coopey and Armand Foisy

Jean Baptiste (Johnny), son of Alphonse and Ozine Foisy was born in Timmins, Ontario, in 1886. He homesteaded the N.W. 20-56-11-4 on September 6, 1905 in the Foisy district.

On February 16, 1911, he married Emma Bergeron in the Roman Catholic Church of Brosseau, with Father A. Clermont officiating.



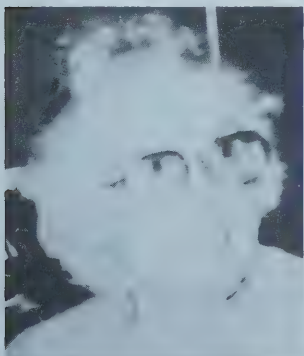
Emma and Johnny Foisy, taken in 1940's.



Taken 1929-30's. The Mail Truck and bus driven by Johnny Foisy.

In the 1930's when Emma and Johnny were living in St. Paul, he drove the mail truck from St. Paul through Lafond and Foisy.

Johnny passed away in 1949, at 63 years of age. His wife Emma, 85 years old is presently living in Mission, B.C.



Mrs. Emma Foisy (nee Bergeron). Taken in 1980, in Mission, B.C. Wife of the late Johnny Foisy.

They have a family of ten children; Irene, Lilianne, Oscar, Cécile, Philippe, Noel, Roland, Berthe, Maurice, the tenth child's name is unknown.

JULIEN FOISY

by Aimé Foisy

Julien, son of Eugene and Rose Foisy (nee Malo) was born October 11, 1930.

He attended Big Fish Lake (Foisy) School. He will always remember his first teacher, Miss Lucille Gagné (Lemaire). At the age of only 5 years old, Julien would walk three miles to school, which for a young boy required a lot of effort. He and his brother Aimé would sure appreciate a ride from passersby, which made their daily walk faster and easier.

After completing grade seven, Julien remained at home, and worked on the farm with his brother and parents.

He took a two months welding course at Chicago Vocational Training, from which he graduated. He then worked at the Two Hills Chemical



Taken April 20, 1963. Julien and Annette's wedding picture.

Plant for a few months as an apprentice welder. Having this experience and being very efficient with a welding rod, Julien does all the welding around the farm, which is a great asset for him and his brothers.



Taken July 1, 1972. Julien and Annette and Family, Sitting: Julien holding Yolande, Marianne, Annette holding Angèle. Kneeling: Denise and Doris.



Taken 1981. L.-R. Doris, Yolande, Julien, Angèle, Marianne, and Denise.

On April 20, 1963, Julien married Annette Lefebvre, daughter of Emile and Lea Lefebvre (nee Foisy) of St. Paul. Annette attended school in St. Paul and received a High School Diploma. She was employed at Blue Quills until she married.

Julien and Annette were married in the Roman Catholic Cathedral, St. Paul with Father Robitaille officiating. The reception was held in the Legion Hall, St. Paul followed by a dance. They spent their honeymoon in Banff and Lake Louise.

They moved to the S.W. 34-56-11-4 (the Felix Paradis place) in their new home to commence their farming career.

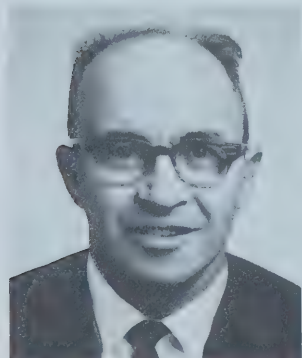
They have five girls: Denise was born April 14, 1964, Doris was born November 4, 1965, Marianne was born October 21, 1967, Yolande born April 21, 1969, and Angèle born May 12, 1972.

Annette passed away May 11, 1979.

LAURENT FOISY

by Aimé Foisy

Laurent, oldest son of Elzear and Maria Foisy (nee Robinson), was born in Foisy December 30, 1918.



Laurent Foisy, taken 1950.

He attended Big Fish Lake (Foisy) School and then farmed with his parents.

In 1955, he purchased his parent's place and farmed until 1960. He then sold his farm to Peter Logozar and moved to Calgary where he worked for two years.

In 1962, he moved to St. Paul and was employed at Blue Quills Residential School.

On July 5, 1968, Laurent suffered a severe stroke and passed away at the age of 50.

Laurent was a jovial fellow, always pleasant to work with. He was the humorous leader of any threshing crew, or a group of men working together. Everyone had to smile when Laurent was around.

LIONEL FOISY AND FAMILY

by Carol Foisy

Lionel, Gilbert Foisy, son of Eugene and Rose Foisy was born November 9, 1940 at St. Paul, Alberta. For the first 3 grades, he attended Foisy School, to which he walked 3½ miles, and occasionally traveled by horse and cutter, in winter time. For the remainder of his schooling, he at-



The Joseph and Sophie Pietrzykowski Family. Taken June 22, 1963.

Left to right: back row: Linda Tessier, Sophie and Joseph Pietrzykowski, Marjorie Bouchard, Carol, (center), front row: Jim, Susanne, Gerry.



Mr. and Mrs. Lionel Foisy, taken June 22, 1963.

tended Lafond School from grades 4 to 9. At this point he decided school wasn't for him, so he got down to business, farming with his father and brothers.

On a very rainy and windy June 22, 1963 he married Carol Stella Pietrzykowski, daughter of Joseph and Sophie Pietrzykowski. The wedding took place at St. Edouard's R.C. Church with Father Tanguay officiating.

I, Carol, was born in Elk Point, Alberta on August 15, 1943, just 20 minutes after my twin sister Marjorie Bouchard. I also have twin brothers: Jim and Gerry, as well as two more sisters: Linda Tessier and Susanne Pietrzykowski. I attended Labrie School, kitty corner from home for the first three grades. (A one room school with grades 1 to 8 included). In 1952, a new school was built in St. Edouard, Alberta, for grades one to eleven. It was here I received my grades 4 to 11 inclusive. For grade twelve I attended Racette, which at that time taught grade seven to twelve.

I worked at the Misericordia Hospital in Edmonton as a ward aide for two summer months of 1960 and again after graduating in 1962 and until my marriage.

After a brief honeymoon to Banff and Jasper, we settled on S.E. 1/4 28-56-11-4, formerly the Albert

Paradis homestead. Lionel farmed two quarters of land and raised some livestock. In 1966, he built a barn and we milked up to twelve cows until the spring of 1972, at which time Lionel decided to invest and raise more hogs.

Our first home consisted of a small, two room house. In the spring of 1968, Lionel put up a pre-fabricated home with the help of his brothers and a worker from Mordway Construction. By September of the same year, we moved into our new home.

On March 9, 1971, Lionel purchased from his father, a fraction of land N.W. 1/4 16-56-11-W4th. bordering Lac Sante. In the spring of 1974, he purchased N.W. 1/4 27-56-11-W4th. from Hormidas Paradis. By 1973, our hog production had grown considerably, so Lionel had pressurized water installed to the barns.

We have five children: four daughters and one son, all born in St. Paul, Alberta.

Catherine was born on March 26, 1964 and Joanne on August 25, 1965. Both girls attended school at Lafond for grades one to eight inclusive. For grade nine, they went to Racette School in St. Paul, Alberta. Presently both are attending St. Paul Regional High School, taking grades eleven and twelve respectively.

On March 14, 1969, Louise was born followed by Gerald on July 29, 1972. Last but not least the birth of Lorianne on February 5, 1976. Louise is taking grade 6 and Gerald is in grade three this year in Lafond School. The teachers are: Dorothy Timko, Richard Bilak and Carmen Fontaine. Lorianne attends pre-kindergarten twice a month and enjoys it immensely. Mrs. Judith Bilak is her teacher.



The Lionel and Carol Foisy Family, taken in 1981. Left to right, back row: Joanne, Louise, and Catherine. Front row: Carol, Lorianne, Lionel, and Gerald.

MARCEL AND THARCIL FOISY (NEE PIGEAU)

by Honore Foisy

Marcel Foisy, son of Eugene and Angèle Foisy (nee Poirier), was born in 1865, at Iles des Allumettes, Quebec. In 1885, he married Tharcil, daughter of Michael and Elmire Pigeau (nee Ladouceur), at Timmins, Ontario.

In 1892 they journeyed west to Lamoureux, Alberta, with their parents and brothers and families. This trip by covered wagon took approximately three months. They lived in Lamoureux for five years, then moved to U.S.A. They arrived in Leroy, North Dakota in early May, by covered wagon on a journey that took seven weeks.

They leased land and farmed for five years, but experiencing difficult times, drought, tornado winds and poor crops they decided to move back to Canada. Mrs. Dora Paradis remembers a snow storm, that lasted three days. The snow had piled so high they couldn't open the door. The house was completely covered with snow. They had to open a window to shovel their way out. Marcel carved steps in the snow bank permitting the children to climb to the top sliding down the steep slopes. Dust

storms were severe, causing poor visibility, so a rope or string was attached from the house to the barn, as a guide to find their way there and back, in case an unexpected storm should arise.

In 1902, they loaded their belongings, this time on the train to Calgary. From there they left by covered wagon, coming again to Lamoureux. They were determined to find a good water supply, better fishing and hunting grounds.

They finally settled in the Foisy district near Big Fish Lake (Lac Sante), where fish were big and plentiful. In 1905 he homesteaded the S.W. 21-56-11-4 which was later owned by his son Elzear and since 1965 is the home place of Peter N. Logozar and family.

On this homestead there were no buildings, so Marcel and his family built a shack made with standing slabs plastered with clay.

They owned one horse and two oxen (Bright and Brandy). They also owned a walking plow used to break the soil. The grain was seeded by hand, and then in the fall it was threshed with a flail. Once a grass fire from the reserve swept through their farm, burning granaries, the barn and one horse.



The Marcel Foisy Family, Taken approximately 1898. Marcel, Adrien, Elzear, Dora, Lovina, Ovila, Tharcil, Solomon, Cyprien missing.

In 1907, the Big Fish Lake (Foisy) School was built permitting their children to attend classes. The nearest church was in Brosseau. The children would walk from Foisy to Brosseau to attend religious classes. These were taught during the summer months.

Their survival depended greatly on wild game and fishing. The weapons used for hunting were, bow and arrows and rifles with homemade shells. The fishing equipment was also handmade using a red painted spoon with hooks as lures attached to a heavy black string.

In summer, the entire family would go berry picking. Their favorite place was an island on Big Fish Lake where berries were plentiful.

Mrs. Foisy sewed all the family garments from print cloth purchased at the Brosseau store for ten cents a yard.

For their pastime the children played with home-made swings, sleighs and stilts.

Marcel enjoyed playing the harp for his own enjoyment. When his sons grew older most of them played the fiddle.

Once Solomon and his sister Dora entered a dancing contest in Vegreville and won trophies as the best dancers.

Marcel and Tharcil had a family of seven children; Elzear, Adrien, Lovina, Solomon, Dora, Ovila, Cyprien.

In 1926, Marcel Foisy passed away at the age of 61 years. Tharcil passed away in 1950. They are both buried in the Lafond cemetery.



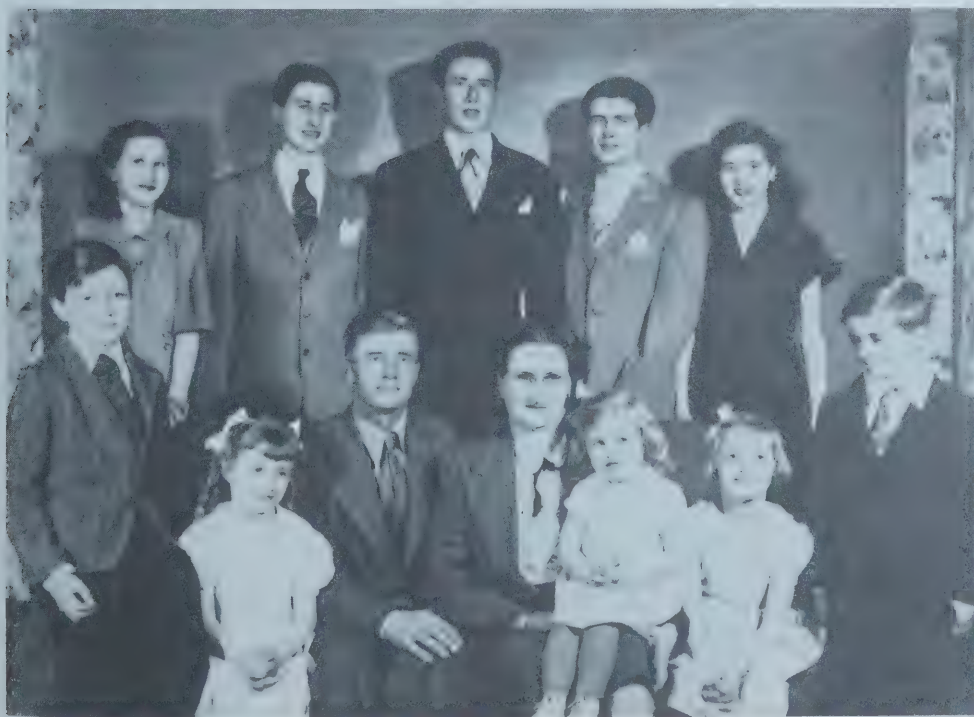
Mr. and Mrs. Cyprien Foisy, reside in Kamloops, B.C. Taken 1980, youngest son of Marcel Foisy.

OVILA AND MARIA FOISY (NEE ROBINSON) *by Aime Foisy*

Ovila, son of Marcel and Tharcil Foisy (nee Pigeau), was born 1896. He came to the Foisy district with his parents in 1905. He attended Big Fish Lake (Foisy) School.

In 1926, Ovila married Maria Robinson, daughter of Joseph and Marie Robinson (nee Fortin). This was the first marriage performed in the newly built St. Bernard Church of Lafond. Maria was born in 1906 on her parent's farm in Foisy. She attended Big Fish Lake (Foisy) School.

In the 1930's they lived in the Foisy district on the S.E. 27-56-11-4 until approximately 1938. This



Mr. and Mrs. Ovila Foisy and Family. Taken 1949 at Prince George, B.C. Back row: Cecile, Victor, Marcel, Paul, Lucille. Front row: Noel, Solange, Ovila, Maria, Pauline, Louise, Robert.

quarter is presently owned by Aime Foisy. Their older children; Paul, Marcel and Victor attended Big Fish Lake (Foisy) School.

They lived for a few years in the Hamlet of Lafond, then moved to Prince George, B.C., where Mrs. Maria Foisy is still residing.

Ovila passed away November 8, 1958.

They had a family of 10 children, 5 boys and 5 girls. Paul, Victor, Marcel, Lucille, Cecile, Noel, Robert, Solange, Louise and Pauline.

PROSPERE FOISY

by the Family

Jean-Baptiste Prospère Foisy, son of Edmond Foisy and Marie-Louise Charbonneau was born on the 17th of February 1907 in a tiny sod hut on a farm near the settlement of Foisy, Alberta. Shortly thereafter, he was baptized in the settlement of St-Paul-des-Metis, Alberta.

His childhood years were spent on the family farm with his father and family and with a view of going into farming, he bought, with his brother Gilbert, a half-section of land now situated approximately three miles West of Lafond, Alberta, West 1/2 Sec. 3-57-11-4.

In 1930 at the age of 23 he decided to make a career out of grain buying and went to Glendon as an employee for Reliance Grain and bought grain in Glendon for two years. He subsequently moved to St. Paul and purchased grain for the Reliance Grain company for an additional fifteen years. The company was then bought out by Midland Pacific Grain Co., and he stayed with Midland Pacific for another ten years.



Alma & Prospère Foisy — 1932.

In 1951 the family moved from St. Paul to Girouxville, Alberta. In 1954 Midland Pacific was sold to United Grain Growers, and Prospère remained with the company until his retirement in 1972.

In 1956 the family moved from Girouxville and returned to St. Paul where Prospère now resides.

In 1935 on the 5th of August at Picardville, Alberta, he married Marie-Rose Alma Fradette. From the marriage were born three children one



Prospère Foisy Family Mid 50's,
René, Denise, Mrs. Alma Foisy,
Jeanine, Prospère.



Sunday afternoon at Edmond Foisy early 30's, Joe Foisy, Ernest Charbonneau on shoulders of Prospère Foisy, Gilbert Foisy, Henry Foisy.

son and two daughters, all born at the St. Theresa Hospital in St. Paul. René was born on the 12th of September 1939, Denise was born on the 21st of April 1943 and Jeannine was born on the 22nd of May 1946. Alma who had been involved in merchandising either as an employee or as an owner from time to time throughout her life once again ventured into the commercial field when in 1960 she, in partnership with Thérèse Neveu, started a children's clothing store in St. Paul named "Kid-dies' Land". She subsequently bought out her partner and ran the store until 1976 when the store was sold and she retired. She was always an avid bridge player and active member of Les Dames de Ste-Anne in St. Paul. Prospère, while also considered a bridge shark, enjoyed hunting, was an active curler and for a number of years he was a member of the St. Paul Chapter of the Knights of Columbus.

René attended elementary school in St. Paul and Girouxville and then completed his studies at the College St-Jean and St. Anthony's Collège in Edmonton. In 1956 he entered the University of Alberta at Edmonton and in 1961 graduated with a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Laws. He then practiced law with Mr. Justice Roger Belzil in Edmonton until 1963, when he returned to St. Paul, where he practiced law until 1979. In March of that year he was appointed to the District Court of Alberta. Later that year the District Court and the Supreme Court of Alberta, Trial Division merged into the Court of Queen's Bench and René became a Justice of the Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta. In 1959 he married Patricia Mallett. From this mar-

riage were born six children: Suzanne, Collette, Christine, Michelle, Paul and Danielle. The family now resides in Edmonton, Alberta.

Denise attended school in St. Paul and Girouxville and l'Académie de l'Assomption in Edmonton. She worked at the St. Paul Journal and St. Therese Hospital. In 1962 on the 5th of May she married Cecil Mast in St. Paul. Three children were born of the marriage: Patricia, Lyle and Lisa. Denise and her husband now reside in Edmonton where Cecil owns a barber shop and Denise is employed by the Edmonton Separate School System.

Jeannine attended school in St. Paul, Girouxville and Fort Kent and upon completion of her high school, she took post-graduate training at NAIT which resulted in her obtaining a certificate as an X-ray technician. She worked as an X-ray technician in Edmonton and in Sherwood Park for a number of years. On November 19, 1966 in St. Paul, Alberta, she married Robert Banser. Bob and Jeannine have two children, Shaun and Christopher. Jeannine and her husband have now left the hectic pace of Edmonton and Sherwood Park and have "retired" on a farm near Bonanza, Alberta.

Prospère and Alma now live quietly in their bungalow in St. Paul. The children and grandchildren still enjoy coming "home" for the réveillon each Christmas. "Pépère" and "Mémère's" great vegetable garden seem to find their way to the tables of the children, in large portions, each summer and fall.

ROGER AND ANTOINETTE FOISY

by Antoinette Foisy

Roger, the second youngest son of Eugene Foisy and Rose Malo was born May 11, 1946 in St. Paul. He attended Lafond School from 1953 to 1963.

In 1967, Roger purchased S.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ and N.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ 21-56-11-W4th, which was previously owned by Aladdin Foisy. Then in 1971, he was proud to buy N.E. 16-56-11-W4th and his parent's farmstead S.E. 20-56-11-W4th where he and his family now reside.



Roger Foisy Family January, 1981 seated: Roger, Christine, Antoinette with Carmen on her knees. standing: Eugene, Jeanine.



Roger and Antoinette Foisy on their wedding day, July 1, 1972.

On July 1, 1972, Roger and I, Antoinette Brousseau were married at St. Vincent, Alberta, in the Roman Catholic Church with Rev Pigeon officiating. The reception was held in St. Paul, followed by a ten-day honeymoon to Banff, Jasper and Kelowna, B.C.

I, Antoinette Brousseau, daughter of Ovide Brousseau and Jeannette Magnan, was born December 21, 1953, in St. Paul. I attended St. Vincent School for 6 years, Mallaig School for 3 years, then finished my schooling in St. Paul, graduating at the Regional School in 1971.

Our first son, Eugene Roger, was born on March 15, 1973 in St. Paul.

Our first daughter, Jeanine Jeannette, was born January 25, 1975. In that same year, we remodelled the house.

Our second daughter, Christine Antoinette, was born May 17, 1977 in St. Paul.

Our third daughter, Carmen Juliette, was born on January 16, 1980 in St. Paul.

This is the Roger Foisy family story as of February, 1981.



Roger on his father's third tractor, May 11, 1947.

ROLAND A. FOISY

by Marie Foisy

Mr. Roland Aimé Foisy, youngest son of Eugene Foisy and Rose Malo of Foisy, Alberta was born on June 14, 1947 in the St. Theresa Hospital, St. Paul, Alberta.

Roland received his rural school education in Lafond, Alta. The bus picked him up for an eight mile ride morning and night. Upon arrival at home,



Roland and Marie Foisy, July 19, 1969.



L.-R. Roland holding baby Daniel 5 months, Andre 7 years, Marie, kneeling Emile 6 years and Colleen 8 years.

Roland had farm chores to do, e.g. feeding hogs, and milking cows, not to forget bringing in firewood. On week-ends, he would be called upon by his older sisters and brothers to do some babysitting.

At 16 years of age, Roland left school to work on the farm with his father and brothers. He stayed at home for 6 years milking cows, of which some were his, for a total of 12 cows in all.

By 1968, he ventured into grain buying for the United Grain Growers Elevator in St. Paul. To Roland it was a good deal, as he was getting closer to his girlfriend, Marie, of St. Paul. After a few months at this post, Roland got married to Marie, daughter of Carl Roscovich and Mildred Plamondon of St. Paul on July 19, 1969. At this time, Roland was the proud owner of his first wheels, a 1968 Chevrolet. In the fall of 1969, they moved to Edmonton, Alberta, to work for Stelco, a steel company. The latter was but a fantasy, farm life then became his prime choice. Roland and Marie came back to farm and then his Dad gave him a quarter of land which was the original homestead of his grandfather, N.E. 20-56-11-4 in the Foisy area. In 1971, he bought a quarter of land from his cousin Mr. Rene Foisy in the Lafond area N.W. 36-56-11-4 making this his home quarter. Later he purchased his third quarter S.W. 34-56-10-4.

Roland now farms with his four brothers and is into mixed grain farming and also raises hogs and cattle.

His favorite sports are camping, fishing, card playing, hockey, horseshoes and dancing.

Roland and Marie have four children, one girl and three boys.

Colleen Ann 8 years old — born July 18, 1972.

Andre Roland 7 years old — born December 18, 1973.

Emile Eugene 6 years old — born October 12, 1974.

Daniel Robert 5 months old — born October 10, 1980.

MR. SOLOMON FOISY

by Honore Foisy

Solomon, son of Marcel and Tharcil Foisy (nee Pigeau), was born April 27, 1893. He came to the Foisy district with his parents in 1905.

On June 20, 1940 he married Julia Prysunka. They lived four and a half miles east of Lafond on



Taken June 20, 1940. Julia and Solomon Foisy.

a farm until 1948. They then moved to the Hamlet of Lafond, where their children attended school.

In 1950, they moved to B.C., but were back in Lafond a year later.

On September 25, 1953 Solomon passed away and was buried in the Roman Catholic Cemetery Lafond.

They had a family of 4 children; Nelson married Bibiane Lafrance and had 2 children; Nadine and Gregory.

Honore, married Bibiane Bisson, had 1 daughter, Christine.

Lionel, married Diane Schlockter had 2 children; Tara and Trenton.

Yvette, married Bernard Richer have 2 children; Todd and Terence.

On July 19, 1955, Julia remarried Robert Lamoureux. They had one daughter, Germaine now married to Steve Cabe. Steve and Germaine are presently living in the U.S.A. They have a daughter Samarah.

THE WILFRED FOISY FAMILY - MEMORIES OF YESTERDAY'S

by Helene Coopey (nee Foisy) and Armand Foisy.

The best things in life are free, and these are treasured memories of an early life on our parent's farm at Foisy, Alberta. Home to me, will always be in Foisy near Lac Sante where six sisters, six brothers and I was born and raised.

Our great - grandparents, with ambition and determination put down roots here in 1905. The hard work and the calluses, the hardships and the sufferings, the tears and the sorrows, the joy and the laughter, the life and the love, they have given to each of us was for a better and more prosperous future. We must not forget *they* are our roots. Without them we would not be what we are or we have today. We must remember our roots.

We, the fourth generation did not know our great-grandparents but by researching, we can know them by learning of their way of life. This wonderful knowledge must be passed on to our children and so on.

Living near Lac Sante, in a sense, was like living in a paradise world of our own, where we built our castle and domain in a dream world of fantasy. Using damp sand we spent many happy hours building our dream castles. Sometimes we sank up to our knees in the sand. Other times we warmed our bodies by burying ourselves in the sand.

The lake was also our private swimming pool and beach, where the family spent most of the hot summer Sundays. In winter it was our skating rink and fishing spot and also where we built our Igloos for protection during the snowball fights.

The family home was built on top of the hill, near the lake giving the family a beautiful view.

There was a horseshoe-shaped path from the door step to the lake which, in winter became our toboggan hill. Many hours were spent with little sleighs built out of lumber by my brothers. They were sanded, polished smooth, free of splinters, then painted.

We sat on that hill many hours in the evening admiring the water on the lake with its great beauty at her calmest moments, stillness clear as a mirror, not a ripple to be seen but the rippling waves of a duck going by. We got great pleasures from the sounds of quacking ducks or loons with their shrill cries in the night. Also there were chirping sounds of the crickets from the nearby slough, sounds, that I have missed so much, especially at bed time.

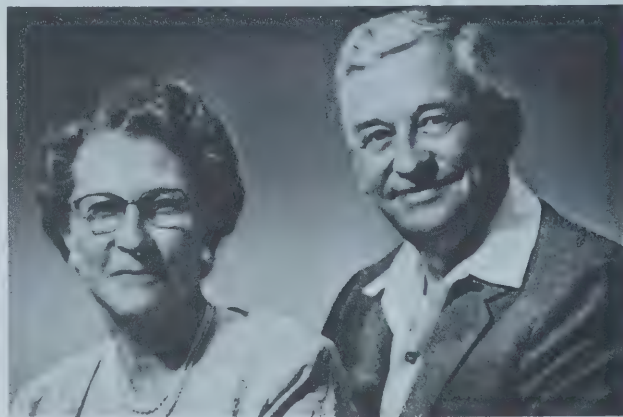
The lake was not always at her best, beautiful and calm. She could be very ugly with churning black waves, looking very angry at the peak of a storm. Lightning and thunder was strong enough to knock you off your feet and send you tumbling down the hill, as it has happened a couple of times to my brothers and sisters, leaving them in a dazed sensation of fear. With each passing storm, all was forgiven and forgotten, and we were back to our loving domain at the beach, with its water back to calmness and beauty.

In winter there was the sounds of the coyotes howling from a distance. Many a night we lay in our beds listening to each howl, and with each one they seemed to be getting closer and closer. Many a time we got them answering our own howling calls.

We played a lot of ballgames, anti-I-over and hide and seek, and most of the time it included our parents.

We had no television in those days but we had a small battery operated radio and that was saved for news reports. Once in a while we would get a treat from our Dad, letting us listen to the Carter Family Singers or the Lone Ranger.

When sickness struck, our parents were the doctor and nurse. Out came wonderful medicines like castor oil or cod liver oil with a bit of sugar or



Our parents Wilfred and Madeleine Foisy Taken 1954.

sulphur powder mixed with syrup so it wouldn't taste so bad. If you came out with a bad cold, the mustard plasters would get slapped on the back or front of your body. You soon found yourself back on your feet and well again.

Then there was the game of having a tooth yanked out. Most of us were not too brave losing our baby teeth. Our dad was the dentist and he would tie a string from the tooth to the door knob. Then we would stand there, all tied up, thinking about it. — Should I or Shouldn't I —. In the meantime, father talking, getting our mind off the string, then all of a sudden, bang went the door, taking the tooth with it. It worked until we got wise to him.

When we were young, we were bashful and shy. When company came, we all hid behind the stove. After a few minutes one would push the other into view while scrambling back out of sight. We eventually, one by one, would take our place on the long bench sitting quietly with not a word spoken, until one would push off the one at the end. At that point it was a real vanishing act, as we all headed straight to our beds.

Father was also a great story teller. A great pastime on a cold blizzardy winter day, was sitting close to burning wood, cuddled up to each other, with our eyes getting bigger and bigger as father proceeded with the story. Some of the stories were a bit scary or sad, but we always asked for an encore. They were all French stories, like the ones of "Le Petit Poucet" or "Le Grand Geant" or "Le petit Garçon et son Ruban Bleu". I loved those little stories. If father was able to speak today I would ask him for an encore.

Another amusement we loved very much was having father play the violin. We would gather around him, and kept rhythm by tapping our feet. He also played the mouth organ. It was always a pleasure to hear or see him playing the instruments, and keeping the family very close.

The family was not living in wealth, we were poor, but what does a person call poor? We didn't have all the trimmings and the fancy foods, but we had plenty of rich home-made bread, potatoes and gravy. When you got tired of brown gravy, you changed to white sauce. Mother always had plenty of chickens and turkeys on the farm. She also had plenty of butter, eggs and milk. Lovely thick rich cream with brown sugar, and on bread or whipped cream with sugar, and wild fruits was very delicious. What more could a person ask?

There was never enough money to buy ready-made clothes. They were all home sewn by our mother. Clothes was the one thing that the family was not rich with, and were all handed down. The girls and the boys going to school had one set of good clothes. They were washed and pressed for the next day. They had one pair of shoes each. At

home you ran around barefoot, saving the wearing of our shoes.

Our lunch bucket was a little yellow pail, containing a couple of slices of bread spread with pork fat, and brown sugar, Jams and Jellies. Apples or oranges were very seldom seen in our lunch baskets.

At school we always had a staged Christmas Concert. Plays were all prepared by the students, with the help of the teacher. Two months before Xmas we would prepare our plays, skits and songs, appropriate for the holiday season. Then was the making and preparing of our costumes, the pleasures of decorating the school and a huge pine tree with all the holiday season glitterings. Reaching into the final stage of preparation, the excitements and the nervous tensions were building up inside, as that evening was getting closer. That evening we were joined by our parents, friends and neighbors as guests, witnessing our performance. Eventually the nervousness would leave, as we would receive their applause. Santa Claus always came with great excitement, a Ho Ho, and to each and every one of the students, including their little sisters and brothers, not yet going to school, he would give out 1/2 lb. of candies and nuts. At this time, the students would exchange gifts, with the one whose name they picked out of a hat and kept secret. On one of those concert plays, we needed an angel, so instead of drawing an angel on the board, we used a real angel. We used my little brother, Henry Foisy, as the angel. At the time, he was only four years old. All we had to do was make him a pair of glittering angel wings.

Another exciting time during the year was Halloween, when we dressed in homemade, paper costumes and wore masks. We filled a tub with water and a few apples. Big or small, we all dunked our heads in, trying to bite an apple with our hands behind our backs.

At the end of the school year we were treated to a picnic, held at the rodeo grounds at Eskow Beach, near Lac Sante or at the School grounds. There were plenty of sports including baseball tournaments, races of all kinds and a few other competitions. The picnic was also attended by our parents and younger sisters and brothers. We were served with sandwiches, cookies and cakes, with a lot of lemonade, of course, and all the homemade ice cream we wanted.

Wild berry picking time was always a family affair and picnic at the same time. Oh! how I miss to taste once more those wonderful delicious wild strawberries, raspberries and gooseberries. We had all those on father's farm. Blueberry picking was a picnic on its own. It included a wagon trip to Saddle Lake Reserve where a few families met and exchanged news at the same time. When the berry picking season was over, mother had jar after jar

of fruits, jams and jellies, for the winter months. Along the lake were hazelnuts that we picked, let dry, and later roasted in the shell and stored. Those were used for our Xmas stockings.

For the older ones, it was not all play, we had little jobs to do. I started to help mother when six years old. She would stand me up on a wooden apple box doing dishes. At that age I was probably playing more with soap suds making bubbles than washing dishes, but as I grew up it became my job cooking and dishwashing. I also remember rocking cranky babies when mother was busy. A couple times I not only rocked the baby to sleep, I rocked myself to sleep also, and down went the baby to the floor.

My sister Yvette was young, but she also wanted to help mother. One day mother was cleaning the garden free of weeds. Yvette wanted to help, but mother soon found all the weeds still standing and no more carrot plants left standing in the garden. A couple years later, mother sent Yvette in the garden to clean the lettuce, meaning pulling the weeds. Yvette fluttered the lettuce free of dust only. But she grew up and it became her job.

Armand at five years old, had a dog named Tippy, who would get the cows across the field, sometimes to the other end of the quarter section. One day he was spotted by a neighbor, looking and smiling, thinking maybe it might be the other way around, the dog taking the cows home and Armand following.

A few years later, Armand was joined by his brother, Richard, fetching the cows for milking. One day Armand was asked by his younger brother, Richard, "How hard does a bear hit?". Armand replied, "Well it depends on the size of the bear". With that he demonstrated to Richard with a punch between the eyes. Richard went down on his rear-end with these words, "Well you didn't have to hit so hard". Armand in reply, "Yea, but that was just a small bear".

Eventually we grew up into teenagers, and other interests were taking place, like gathering with other teenagers and going to dances and picnics. At this point, one thing that comes to my mind, was my bashful brother Armand, who used to go down to the lake to shave. This was not found out until he left for the bush to work in B.C., and his brothers, Richard and Victor found his little secret, a razor, brush and the rest of it. We often wondered where he used to vanish before each time we were going to any amusements.

Sometimes we went to the Treaty Days on Saddle Lake Reserve. We would set up tent for three days alongside our native friends, not wanting to miss a thing that was going on. There was a rodeo parade by the natives, dressed in their best Indian costumes with beads and feathers. It was very col-

orful. In the evening there was Pow Wow dancing and we were allowed to join in with them to the sounds of drums. Later that evening was dancing to the old time music of Pat Paul and his band from sun-down to sun-up.

Today my brothers and sisters either play an instrument or sing. This is always wonderful at our family get togethers.

Without the help of my brother Armand, who travelled many miles to obtain a lot of information and photos, we would not have got all the information we have. Thanks Armand.

WILFRED AND MADELEINE FOISY (NEE PARADIS)

by Helen Coopey and Armand Foisy

Joseph Fabien Wilfred Foisy was born July 24th, 1897 at Leroy, North Dakota, USA in the St. Joseph Parish.

In 1902 Wilfred, at the age of 6 years, came west to Alberta with his parents, Alphonse and Marguerite Ozine Foisy. He was the sixth child of a family of 8 children.



Taken 1973 - 50th Wedding Anniversary, Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Foisy.



Foisy Family Reunion held August 6th, 1966. Sitting Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Foisy. L.-R. Alice, Laurette, Noella, Lucille, Jeannette, Yvette and Helen, Armand, Richard, Victor, Felix, Henry and Eric.

Wilfred spent 2 years near Fort Edmonton at Lamoureux with some of his family, while their home was being built near Big Fish Lake (Lac Sante) at Foisy, Alta., then moved here with the family in 1905.

Wilfred, a little boy, 8 years old and his grandfather Eugene Foisy were partners in fishing and in hunting partridges, prairie chickens and grouse which were plentiful in those days, also snaring rabbits. Wilfred, who was the retriever for his grandfather, was learning all the tricks of the trades.

Wilfred began his education at the age of 10, at the Big Fish Lake (Foisy) School with Miss Blanche Lafond (Mrs. Johnny Brosseau) as his first teacher. He was wearing long blonde hair in ringlets at the time. His teacher, Miss Lafond, fell in love with his hair, so every morning she proudly walked with him around the classroom showing him off. Wilfred, getting so much attention thought he could get away with misbehaving in school, but to punish him the teacher would get him to kneel down by her chair at her feet, while she sat at her desk. In return, Wilfred would play with the laces of the high boots she was wearing, the fashion in those days, undoing the laces then tying them to the leg of her desk. Finding herself tied up, Miss Lafond was annoyed, but could not severely reprimand her little pet, so Wilfred would then have the job of untying and relacing her boots before being sent back to his seat. He had the class roaring with laughter, so to him it became a routine of everyday enjoyment. Shortly afterwards, Wilfred had his lovely curls cut by his parents and he was

not too pleased about it, so he cried and pouted for days.

In 1906, Wilfred lost his grandfather, Eugene Foisy, his fishing and hunting partner. He was sad and lost without him, but never forgot what he had learned from him. Two years later, in 1908, his grandmother, Angèle Foisy (nee Poirier) passed away.

On May 31, 1918, now a young man of 21 years of age, Wilfred was called to serve in the Canadian Army. He was with the Canadian Expeditionary Force and was discharged on April 22, 1919 as a Honourable Private.

In 1921, Wilfred met Madeleine, who was working as a waitress in the dining room of the old Lavoie Hotel. After a couple of years of courting, on February 6, 1923, they were married in the Catholic Church of Lafond. The wedding celebration was held in the Big Fish Lake (Foisy) School. During the festivities Wilfred sang a French song "C'est la Douzaine que J'aime" (It's a dozen I love).

The first few months after their marriage they lived with his brother Johnny. He worked with his brother, hauling lumber from saw mills.

A few months later, early in the fall, they moved to the Foisy district and lived with his parents until they had a place of their own.

On Feb. 12, 1924 their first child, Helene Albertine Florida, was born at home with the assistance of a mid-wife.

In 1924 they bought a fraction known as the Hutchinson Farm, near Lac Sante. A log shack was already built there, but in need of repair. While Wilfred was away threshing, Madeleine tackled the



Taken 1951 Wilfred Foisy and his buggy.

job of plastering the shack on her own, surprising her husband when he returned from threshing.

The place was conveniently located, quiet and peaceful, with plenty of fish in the lake. Wilfred would often go fishing, sometimes using a net made of sticks and chicken wire.

Wilfred raised a few sheep for a couple of years, until the ram decided to use him as a bunting target. Soon came a fast "Goodbye" to the ram and sheep.

In the winter months, he hunted coyotes, selling the pelts for extra pocket money.

On March 29, 1925, a second daughter, Yvette Elise was born. Within a year, March 25, 1926, a son Armand Euclid was born. Armand, baptised on March 29, 1926, was the first baptism performed in the new St. Bernard's Church of Lafond.

In 1927, they sold the fraction near the lake and bought the N.W. 27-56-11-4 from Albert Paradis. At this location, five more children were born, Jeanette on Sept. 13, 1927, Lucille Rita on Dec. 29, 1928, Noella Augustine on Dec. 26, 1929, Richard Antoine on June 7, 1931 and Victor Joseph on Oct. 17, 1932.

For a few winters in the 1930's Wilfred and his brother Daniel, packed their grub box, ammunition and extra clothing and went hunting up North. They always brought their limits of moose, elk and deer home, providing them with enough meat for the winter.

In the winter months, the meat was hung in a granary. When a steak or roast was needed, one had to go and chop it off. During the summer months, the meat, milk and cream was kept in an ice house. This was a 4 X 4 X 7 foot hole dug in the ground, located on the shady side of the house. A layer of ice and sawdust was laid in the bottom keeping this place cool for summer months.

Wilfred hauled his grain, cattle and hogs to market with a horse and sleigh or wagon to St. Paul, a distance of 20 miles, or Two Hills, a distance of 18 miles. Often when it was very cold in winter, he would warm up a big rock in the oven, putting

it at his feet to keep warm. Walking beside the sleigh was another means to warm up, also to keep the blood circulating.

In the 1930's, the time of the depression when eggs sold for 10¢ a dozen, a 200 lb. pig sold for \$3.00, a milk cow brought \$10.00 and poor crops. It was very difficult to make ends meet.

Finding themselves unable to make the farm payments, they let this farm go and rented the S.E. 4-57-11-4 from Desaulniers, that later became the Herve Malo place. On this farm, on July 6, 1934, another son, Felix, was born.

In 1935, they bought the N.E. 4-57-11-4 adjoining the lake, one mile east of Foisy corner. With no buildings on this farm, they moved their family to his parents, the Alphonse and Ozine Foisy place, while a log house was being erected. With the help of his young 9 year old son, Armand, logs were cut, peeled and hauled from Gordon Bailey's swamp, a distance of 2 miles. A couple of weeks before Christmas the one-room log house covered with shingles, was ready to move in. A log barn, covered with straw, to accommodate four horses and one milk cow, was also erected during this period. On Christmas Eve everyone helped to decorate the tree with homemade ornaments. Adding to their excitement, another son was born, Henry Leo, with the assistance of a midwife.



Mrs. Madeleine Foisy near her house in St. Edouard.

The next five years saw three more children born, Laurette Lucienne, July 9, 1937, Eric Argé, January 2, 1939, in the St. Paul hospital. At this time they had a family of 12 children, 6 boys and 6 girls, a tie. With the thirteenth child on the way, there was a Pow-wow pulling for their respective sex. On April 9, 1940, a daughter Alice Blanche, was born. This brought victory to the girls. It was then, that Wilfred recalled singing "C'est la Douzaine que J'Aime" on his wedding day, but ended with a baker's dozen, 13 for good measure.

A family of 13 was no picnic for Madeleine. Baking bread 3 times a week, preparing meals, washing clothes on a scrub board required a lot of time. Sewing and mending, knitting mittens and socks were done early in the morning or late at night, when the children were asleep. She always did it with a smile, often humming or whistling her favorite tunes.

Wilfred, a great story teller, also played the violin or mouth organ, entertaining the whole family. There was never a dull moment in the Foisy home. Fifteen years later, on April 17, 1950, they sold this farm, leaving the Foisy district, and moved to St. Edouard, Alberta. Here they acquired 3 quarters of land which was suitable to raise cattle.

After 7 years of ranching and the children all grown up, they soon realized they couldn't cope with all this farm work by themselves, so decided to rent the land, sell the livestock and machinery and moved to Prince George, B.C., with their oldest son Armand.

They both worked as cooks in lumber camps, but after 2 and a half years, they decided to move back to Alberta, so in 1959 they sold their land and bought a house in St. Paul where they retired.

On August 5, 1972, Mr. & Mrs. Wilfred Foisy celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary where again all the family was present.

A few years later Wilfred suffered a stroke, leaving him partially disabled and confining him to a wheelchair. In 1978 Wilfred was placed in the Parkland Nursing Home in St. Paul because of his illness. Madeleine still resides in her home and enjoys good health.

Wilfred and Madeleine Foisy's children are as follows:

1. Helene (1924) Married Horace Coopey, have one child.
2. Yvette (1925) Married Walter Capowsky, have 3 children.
3. Armand (1926) Married Doona McMillan, have 2 children.
4. Jeannette (1927) Married Bob McConnaughey, have 1 child.
5. Lucille (1928) Married Stan LaCroix, have 1 child.
6. Noella (1929) married Jos. Robinson, have 5 children.

7. Richard (1931) Married Lorraine Lapointe, have 3 daughters.
8. Victor (1932) Married Annie Christopherson, have 1 son.
9. Felix (1934) Married Louise Lafrance, have 4 sons.
10. Henri (1935) Married Vivianne Roberge, have 4 children.
11. Laurette (1937) Married Raymond Lapointe, have 2 sons.
12. Eric (1939) Married Lilianne Hamel, have 4 children.
13. Alice (1940) Married Gerry Parker, have 3 daughters.

MRS. HORACE WILLIAM COOPEY (HELENE FOISY)

by Helene Coopey

I, Helene was the first daughter born to Wilfred and Madeleine Foisy (nee Paradis), February 12, 1924 at Foisy in the family farm, second home of my grandparents, Alphonse and Ozine Foisy. I attended Big Fish Lake (Foisy) School. With duties on the family farm I did manage to complete grade six. My duties at home were cook and dishwasher, once in a while took part in the cow milking and water hauling by pail, using a carrying shoulder yoke. I also helped my mother with the family sewing, mending, and scrubbing of floors using a strong solution of lye. A scrubbing brush with sudsy water brought the wooden floors to a creamy color each month. Following this, I had a few days nursing my hands back to health until the next time around.

At sixteen years of age, I left the family farm and worked in a private home for Mr. and Mrs. Prosper Foisy (a cousin) looking after their young son René, known today as Honorable Mr. Justice René Foisy, for a month or so until loneliness took over. After being back at the family home for a



Taken 1974. Horace and Helen Coopey (nee Foisy).



Taken 1974. Warren and Madeleine Olander and Family: Janet Lynn and Lori Ann. Madeleine is the daughter of Horace and Helen Coopey.

while, I went to work at the St. Theresa Hospital, St. Paul in the kitchen. Fall of 1941, I went to work for auntie Louisa Charbonneau at their North Edmonton farm. After a tonsil operation, I went to work to pay my bill at the Misericordia Hospital in Edmonton, for \$15.00 a month plus board and room with \$12.00 clear in the pocket, but never broke from pay day to the next pay day.

In 1942, I met and married Lloyd Budinski of Ryley, Alberta. He was born 1919 in Alberta of Polish descent. His parents had immigrated with their families in the 1900's. At the time of our marriage on May 24, Lloyd was with the Calgary Highlanders Canadian Army and went overseas into the front lines until 1945. His occupation after the war was carpenter for a few years, later he was a sheet metalman.

One daughter was born June 12, 1944 in the St. Theresa Hospital, St. Paul. She completed her grade ten in Edmonton where our home was. At sixteen years of age she married Barry Allen Auten, born September 16, 1940 of Edmonton. He was employed as a garage man. They had 2 daughters; Janet Lynn born March 17, 1961 and Lori Ann born May 24, 1962.

Shortly after, their father was killed instantly in a car and cement truck accident, returning from a hunting trip September 19, 1962.

Ten years later July 15, 1972, Maddie married Warren Olander, born September 3, 1941, from Edmonton. His occupation is sheet metalman. At the moment he is instructor in Sheet metal at N.A.I.T in Edmonton.

Maddie worked for the Edmonton City Telephone Installation and Billing Department for a few years, and now is employed by a Labour Union, as a Secretary in Edmonton.

In 1957, my marriage with Lloyd broke down. At the time I was working for the G.W.G. Factory in Edmonton. I married Horace William Coopey April 14, 1974 in Calgary. Horace is the son of Horace and Alice Maude Coopey of England. He was born September 9, 1926. He served the Royal Family as a guard, also served the English Army in 1945. After the war he got into prison work in Germany and England. He came to Alberta in 1954 and was employed in the Belmont Alcoholic Institution in Edmonton from 1954 to 61. He was then transferred to the Calgary Correction Institution (Spy Hill) as a grade sergeant on the floor and guard room. After he went in the workshops as an instructor making and repairing boots, sewing and mending department in leather, carving hobbies where he still works. His mother still lives in England at the age of 85. Since our marriage I've had the pleasure of taking trips to England. I no longer work but do keep myself occupied with sewing, knitting and crocheting and a few other hobbies, such as leatherscarving, purse and wallet making. As my great-grandfather Eugene Foisy, I too love to fish, especially salmon, sometimes coming home with 20 qts. of my own canned salmon.

MRS. ELGIN MCGILLIVRAY (Yvette E. Foisy) *by Helene Coopey*

Yvette, second daughter of Wilfred and Madeleine Foisy, was born at Foisy, Alberta on March 29, 1925 on the family farm near Lac Sante. She attended Big Fish Lake School at Foisy, Alberta. With duties on the family farm she did manage to complete grade 6. Her duties were helping mother with the younger children and washing clothes on a scrub board. Scrubbing floors with the use of lye once a month, and ending with blistered sore hands. She also helped to haul water by the pailful, using a shoulder yoke.

In 1942 Yvette left the family farm and went to Edmonton to join her sister Helene, at the Misericordia Hospital working as a Nurses' Aide for a couple years. In 1944 she met Walter Capowsky from Smoky Lake, Alberta. They were married on December 28, 1944 in Edmonton. He had joined the Canadian Army and was discharged for medical



Taken in 1971. Wedding of Raymond and Linda Capowsky (nee Strom). Raymond is the son of Walter and Yvette Capowsky.

reasons. He then worked for the Oliver Hospital for 20 years and retired for health reasons. They have 3 children, 2 sons and 1 daughter, DONALD born on December 1, 1945; married Pat Drapaka of Ashmont, Alberta on August 1, 1971. They have 2 sons, Kevin and Sheldon. They live in Edmonton, Alberta. Approximately 5 years after their marriage his young wife took sick with a head tumor followed with an operation that left her partially paralysed. She was kept in the hospital and later transferred into a nursing home, unable to go home, because she was unable to look after herself or family. Donald in spite of it, kept on with his work at Labatts Brewery. He still manages to keep his family together by taking his young wife home on weekends.

RAYMOND, born on January 22, 1947 at Edmonton, married Linda Strom of Edmonton on October 10, 1971. They have 2 children, 1 son and 1 daughter; Christopher and Sherrisa. They now reside in Ottawa, Ontario. He is presently employed with the Government Pollution Controlling Department.

BARBARA, born on July 7, 1956 in Edmonton married John and have 1 daughter, Danita. They reside in Edmonton. His occupation is on a Milk Farm and Barbara delivers milk for the same firm to homes.



Taken 1972; Left to Right; Mrs. Pat Capowsky and son Kevin, Donald Capowsky, Barbara Capowsky, Walter and Yvette Capowsky (nee Foisy).

Yvette and Walter's marriage broke down in 1976. Yvette at the time is working for Woodward's Department Store as a Security Woman. In 1979 she met and married Elgin McGillivray of Edmonton on July 28, 1979. He has his own accountant business. Yvette helps him with the business.

Yvette has no hobbies to keep herself busy but loves to go Bingo-ing and dancing. Since their marriage she has enjoyed a trip to Hawaii and a boat trip on the West Coast to North British Columbia.

ARMAND UCLID FOISY

by Helene Coopey

Armand is the third child and first son of Wilfred and Madeleine Foisy. He was born on March 25, 1926 at Foisy, on the family farm home by Lac Sante, with the help of a mid-wife. Armand was the first child baptized in the new St. Bernard Roman Catholic Church of Lafond. His god parents were his uncle and aunt Aladin and Lawrence Foisy. Armand attended Big Fish Lake School and only reached grade 6. He helped his father with the farm work and left school at the age of 14. But somewhere along the line he taught himself and is very good with figures with an excellent memory.

In the fall of 1943, Armand at the age of 17, went to British Columbia in the saw-mills with his father. He worked the winter months and returned in the spring to put their crops in. After the harvest, off again into bush camps for the winter months. In 1945, Armand decided not to follow in his father's footsteps and made his life and home in the B.C. bush camps and saw-mills. He worked up from a tree faller to a foreman. Armand has worked 35 years in bush camps and still enjoys it in 1981.

In 1966, Armand met Dawna McMillan born November 28, 1940 of Vancouver Island. They were married on July 29, 1966 at Prince George, B.C. Her occupation was a lifeguard and swimming instructor. Armand was the last to marry of Wilfred and Madeleine Foisy's 13 children. Armand and Dawna have 2 children, a son Melvin Armand, born March



Taken in 1966. Wedding Picture of Armand and Dawna Foisy.



Melvin and Bernice Foisy, children of Armand and Dawna Foisy.

25, 1967, he is exactly 41 years younger to the day than his father. They also have 1 daughter Bernice Gloria, born on March 10, 1970 at Prince George, B.C.

Armand always loves to tease his brothers and sisters, or get into a good argument, for kicks. One of his favorite get even tricks was to lead the bull near the house to scare the girls. He also learned to strum a guitar.

Armand loves to travel and has gathered a lot of information for us, on the Foisy and Paradis families, for this history book.

MRS. ROBERT McCONNAUGHEY (JEANNETTE FOISY)

by Helene Coopey

Jeannette, the fourth child and third daughter of Wilfred and Madeleine Foisy, was born September 13, 1927 at Foisy on the family farm. She attended the Big Fish Lake (Foisy) School and completed her grade six.

Jeannette took on her share of duties on the family farm. She loved to ride horses and was very

good at it. She was always ready to race with her brothers. She was the mischievous type, but a pleasure to have around the family.

In 1943, Jeannette joined her two older sisters, who were already employed at the Misericordia Hospital, doing housekeeping duties, with board and room supplied. After a few years of this kind of work, she went to a private home and worked for a while, then went and worked in laundries.

In 1951, Jeannette met and married Robert (Bob) McConnaughey. He was born November 25, 1927 in Los Angeles, California. They were married October 27, 1951 in Edmonton. At the time Robert was in the U.S. Air Force. Soon after their marriage, Jeannette joined her husband at Fairbanks, Alaska where he was stationed and lived there a couple



Taken 1974. Gary and Susan Fairley (nee McConnaughey).



Cory Fairley.



Taken 1951. Roberta and Jeannette McConnaughey (nee Foisy).

of years. He was then transferred to Texas. A few years later he was discharged from the forces and operated his own business, an auto-body shop in Portland, Oregon where he still lives. Jeannette worked in a camera shop for a few years in Oregon.

In 1958, unable to have children of their own, they adopted a special little girl, Susan, who was three years old at the time. She was born October

13, 1955. On June 15, 1974 Susan married Gary Fairley of Merritt, B.C. They have one son Cory born October 6, 1975. They reside in Hinton, Alberta.

Jeannette now resides in Hinton and is employed as a housekeeping supervisor at the Hinton Hospital. She still loves dancing and is a very good caller of old time square dances. At home she relaxes with sewing and quilt making.

MRS. STANLEY LACROIX (LUCILLE R. FOISY)

by Helene Coopey

Lucille is the fifth child and fourth daughter of Wilfred and Madeleine Foisy, born at Foisy, Alberta on the family farm December 29, 1928. She attended Big Fish Lake School and completed her grade 6. Her duties while on the family farm were as baby sitter and helping mother with the children's bath, also washing floors.

In 1947 Lucille left the family farm home and went to work for her sister Yvette in Edmonton, helping with house work and caring for a new born infant, Raymond. A few weeks later she went to work in a restaurant where she worked for a few years.

In 1950 she and a girl friend went to Toronto and worked in restaurants for some time. Lucille met her husband, Stanley Lacroix. He was born on November 20, 1932 in Vancouver, B.C. They were married June 20, 1951. Shortly after their marriage they moved to Vancouver, where he worked with the Telephone Lines for a few years. Later he worked for a Mail Trucking Department. He now works for himself trucking, anything that comes along.

They have 7 children, 5 girls and 2 boys

- DEBORAH ANN born on June 1, 1952. She now writes her own material, (words and music) and plays her own guitar, and sings in Club-Inns at Vancouver under the name of Ferron with a back up band of 2 electric guitars, a fender bass, drums and piano-organ, violin and an accoustic bass with 3 background female vocalists. She already has 2 records out and working on her third album. She tours across Canada in summer, doing shows in different clubs and inns. She's not married and living a carefree life.
- JACQUELINE was born on July 6, 1953 and married Kevin Gallagher from Vancouver on March 15, 1975. They have 2 sons, Brendon and Sean Trevor, and reside in Vancouver, B.C.
- RICHARD (Ricky) was born on October 1, 1954, is single and lives in Vancouver.
- ROBERTA was born on November 28, 1955. She married Paul Anthony Neale of Van-



Taken 1976. Stanley and Lucille LaCroix and Family. Back Row: Deborah, Jacqueline, Colleen, Paul Neale, Roberta (bride) Joey, Lucille, Stanley. Front: Richard, Jeannine, Kevin Gallagher — Jacqueline's husband.

couver, June 26, 1976. They have 1 daughter, Leah Jeannine, and reside in Vancouver.

- COLLEEN ANNE, born November 9, 1958. She and her husband have 1 daughter, Jessica Narda, born August 31, 1979. She is the youngest great-grandchild of Wilfred and Madeleine Foisy.
- JEANNINE, born July 6, 1967 is still at home and attending school.

Soon after her family grew up, Lucille went back to work in restaurants. As a pastime at home, she still plays her guitar and sings.

MRS. JOSEPH ROBINSON (NOELLA A. FOISY)

by Helene Coopey

Noella, the sixth child and fifth daughter of Wilfred and Madeleine Foisy was born December 26, 1929 on the family farm at Foisy. She completed her grade 6 at Big Fish Lake School. Her duties on the family farm were cook and dishwasher, also scrubbing floors and hauling water.



Taken in 1974. Joseph and Noella Robinson (née Foisy) and family. L-R: Back row: Diane, Joseph, Eric, Zoel, Alcide. Front row: Donna Mae, Noella.

Noella left home at the age of 20 and married Joseph (Joe) Robinson, son of Leon and Delima Robinson of Lafond. He was born on August 29, 1926. Noella and Joe were married in Edmonton, February 28, 1948 with a small reception held in the St. Edward Hotel in Edmonton. After their marriage they moved with his parents on the family farm for a while, then moved into a small house in Lafond. Then they went to Prince George, B.C. where he worked for saw-mills. After his father's death he took over the farm at Lafond. Later he sold, then moved to St. Paul, from St. Paul to Camrose, then from Camrose, went to Prince George, B.C. where he finally made it their home and worked as a carpenter for a few years. They have 6 children, 2 daughters and 4 sons:

Diane — born June 18, 1949 married John Remple of Saskatchewan on April 10, 1971 — no children. They reside in Calgary, Alberta.

Richard — born November 4, 1950, deceased at 6 months, 1951, was buried at the cemetery of Lafond, Alberta.

Eric Felix — born May 25, 1952 married Joy Lindstrom of Prince George B.C. November 9, 1974. They have 2 children, 1 son and 1 daughter, Mark and Jackie. They reside at Prince George, B.C.

Zoel — born July 12, 1954 married Wanda Graff of Prince George on August 2, 1975. They have 1 son, René Ray and reside in Calgary.

Alcide — born June 17, 1955 married Barnetta Ashford of New Brunswick August 24, 1979. They have one daughter, Bridget, reside in Prince George, B.C.

Donna Mae — born May 8, 1963 is still at home attending school. She also plays the guitar and sings well.

Since her family has grown up, Noella went to work for a Hotel Inn in Prince George, B.C. as a head girl, catering for weddings, banquets and Conventions, and enjoys it very much. Her daughter, Donna Mae also works there on her days away from school. Noella also enjoys playing the guitar and singing. She also relaxes sewing and quilt making.

RICHARD ANTOINE FOISY

by Helene Coopey

Richard — the seventh child and second son of Wilfred and Madeleine Foisy was born on June 7, 1931 on the family farm at Foisy with the help of a midwife. Richard attended and completed grade 7 at Big Fish Lake School.

Richard as a young lad had long legs and when he took off a running, he ran, especially when he believed there was a bear chasing him. His duties were alongside his father and brother Armand with the farm chores. He was a good, hard, fast worker and never a swear word came out of him, only



Taken 1980 in Kelowna, B.C. Richard and Lorraine Foisy Family L-R: Denise, Richard, Yvonne, Lorraine, Annette.

fancy ones. He learned to play the guitar by ear and loved to sing.

Richard as a teenager went to work during the winter months in British Columbia lumber camps. Come spring, he was back on the farm to help put the crops in. After harvest, off he went to work again.

Richard married Lorraine LaPointe of St. Edouard, Alberta October 19, 1953. Lorraine was born April 22, 1935 to Gerry and Courrana LaPointe of St. Paul. Shortly after their marriage, Richard and Lorraine went to Prince George, B.C. where they lived for a few years. Richard worked in the saw-mills until he was employed as a carpenter. From Prince George he then moved to Nanaimo, Vancouver Island, where they lived for a few years building homes plus their own. After a few years they sold their home and moved back in-land to Kelowna, B.C. He built another home for his family and worked for a builder contractor. In between jobs he built extra homes and sold them.

Richard and Lorraine have three daughters — DENISE born January 6, 1954 married Joseph Michaud of St. Lina, Alberta, July 5, 1975 in Prince George and they have 1 son and 1 daughter, Darcy and Yvonne. Denise also plays the guitar and sings. They reside at Prince George, B.C.

YVONNE — born October 4, 1956 married Michael Seigmann of Kelowna, B.C. June 28, 1980 where they made their home. Yvonne also plays the guitar and sings.

ANNETTE — born September 27, 1961 is still home and working in a drug store at Kelowna.

Now that their family has grown up — Lorraine works a few months of the year in a fruit canning factory. Richard still works for a builder contractor. In his spare time he still loves to play his guitar and sing. The only difference is that his audience today are his two grandchildren.

VICTOR JOSEPH FOISY

by Helene Coopey

Victor is the eighth child and third son of Wilfred and Madeleine Foisy born October 17, 1932 in the family farm home at Foisy, with the help of a mid-wife. He completed his grade seven at Big Fish Lake (Foisy) School.

Victor also did his share of chores on the family farm, but most of all he was the water boy. With no well on the farm, drinking water had to be hauled from the neighbors 1/2 a mile away, 365 days a year with two twelve gallon cream cans using a horse and stone boat or a wheelbarrow. Water was hauled by barrel from the lake or slough for washing clothes etc. Victor was kept busy but somehow not busy enough. He still managed to get himself in a bind situation with his older brothers. Every once in a while Victor was seen running for his dear life.

Victor was the early bird. He was up on cold winter mornings, lighting up the fires. Unknown to the parents he would sneak a battery radio, listening with ears glued to it. In those years in the early mornings, Radio Stations could be reached as far as the United States and somehow we would get Del-Rio Texas, listening to cowboy songs. Soon after Victor learned to play the guitar and sang. Often you would hear him say this is Vic Sivors . . . Station C.K.X.L. Del Rio Texas . . . Tune in . . . Same Time . . . Same Station.

Victor at 17, went to British Columbia Sawmills and worked for a few winters earning extra pocket money.

In 1956, he joined the Canadian Army and served with the Queen's Own Regiment for a few years, later he was transferred into the Patricia regiment. Of his 21 years in the Canadian Army he spent three years in Germany, and six months in Cyprus, in peace keeping duties. In 1977 he was discharged for medical reasons. While in Germany he went to Denmark on his leaves, where he met his wife to be, Anni Simonsen of Copenhagen,



Taken 1976. Victor and Anni and son Kenneth.

Denmark. She was born June 22, 1938. They were married September 4, 1960 in Copenhagen. He brought his bride home to Canada in December 1960. He was stationed in Calgary where they made their home. They had no children of their own, but in 1965 they adopted a son, Kenneth, age 6 months. He was born January 15, 1965.

Following his discharge in 1977 Victor went to work for a school as a caretaker, and maintenance man, where he is still employed.

Victor still loves to play the guitar and sing. Once in a while he still uses the same term of signing off. He also is a very soft violin player. He has no patience for fishing but loves to eat it.

FELIX FRANK FOISY

by Helene Coopey



Taken in 1977, at St. Paul. Felix and Louise Foisy and Family L-R:Michael, Leonard, Felix, Francis, Louise, Raymond.

Felix — the ninth child and fourth son of Wilfred and Madeleine Foisy was born on the family farm with the help of a mid-wife, on July 6, 1934 at Foisy, Alberta. He attended the Big Fish Lake School, Foisy, and completed his grade 7.

Felix as a young lad seemed to do a lot of sliding . . . especially at mealtime. When things did not go his way, or he was getting the worst end of a bad situation with his brothers, he would slowly slide under the table inch by inch . . . when asked by his father what he was doing, someone else answered for him . . . He's pouting . . . he would answer . . . No, I'm sliding.

As Felix grew up, he too did his share of farm duties, splitting fire wood for the cooking and heating. Like his other brother he also learned to play the guitar and sing. As a young man, he spent a few winters in British Columbia saw-mills and bush camps for extra pocket money.

Felix married Louise Lafrance, on April 23, 1960 in St. Paul. After their wedding they lived with her parents for a while, then moved to Edmonton for a few years. He worked for C.N. Delivering Service for sometime. They then moved back to St. Paul

and went farming again. After a few years, he gave it up and they are now settled in their own home in St. Paul. He is keeping busy as a handyman, building, renovating, repairing, and painting homes.

Louise is working in the St. Paul St. Theresa Hospital and giving good service in her nursing profession.

They have four sons: MICHAEL born on February 23, 1961 — RAYMOND born November 18, 1962 — LEONARD born September 6, 1965 and FRANCIS born August 2, 1968.

Felix has spent a lot of time guiding and coaching his sons and other boys in hockey. Their two younger sons are still playing hockey.

Felix still loves to sing and play his guitar. He also learned to play the banjo and accordion. He loves to fish and to eat.

HENRY LEO FOISY

by Helene Coopey

Henry, the tenth child and the fifth son of Wilfred and Madeleine Foisy, was born December 24, 1935, on the family farm with the help of a midwife. Henry attended Foisy School and completed his grade seven. Henry was small for his age, but still managed to carry his part of the farm chores. When he would disappear, which happened quite



Taken 1976. Henry and Vivian Foisy and Family. Back row: Vivian, Henry. Front: Denis, Marc, Angèle.

often all you had to do was look and listen for the sound of a guitar. You would find Henry under a large straw hat, either behind the house, behind a wood pile, or behind the hay stack. He also learned to play the violin. At one time he, and his brother Felix, and friend, Noel formed a band and played for many weddings, dances and parties around St. Paul and district. As a young man he went to work in the bush camps and sawmills in B.C. Being small in size and weight he had trouble getting work, so he had to prove himself when he did get some work. He is still small today, but as the saying goes . . . He's small but all there.

On February 10, 1962, Henry married Vivian Roberge of St. Edouard, Alberta, in the Roman Catholic Cathedral, St. Paul. She is the daughter of Dave and Noella Roberge. She was born April 15, 1945. Shortly after their marriage they went to Prince George, where he worked in sawmills. Later they returned to St. Paul for a few years, working for an Edmonton firm, delivering bread to St. Paul and surrounding districts.

Following that job he contracted painting homes for a builder contractor. After a few years they moved to Kelowna, B.C. where he was painting homes again. Work was slow and hard to find, so from Kelowna they came back to Alberta, settling in Hinton, where home has been since. He is now employed as a carpet layer for a contractor.

Henry and Vivian have 4 children, 2 sons and 2 daughters — Denis born June 4, 1963, Angèle born June 5, 1964, Lea Helen born July 12, 1965 and died September 3, 1967 in a car accident. She was buried in the St. Paul Roman Catholic Cemetery. Their last son Mark was born November 18, 1968.

With the family fairly grown up Vivian is employed at the Hinton Hospital as housekeeper.

Henry still loves to fish and play his electric guitar in his leisure time. Approximately five years ago they went to Hawaii with friends to celebrate their fifteenth wedding anniversary.

MRS. RAYMOND LAPOINTE (LAURETTE FOISY)

by Helene Coopey

Laurette is the eleventh child and the sixth daughter of Wilfred and Madeleine Foisy. She was born on July 9, 1937, at the St. Theresa Hospital, St. Paul, Alberta. Laurette attended Foisy School and completed her grade seven at the St. Edouard School. She also carried her share of house work duties with mother. In her spare time she learned to play the guitar and sang very well, like Kitty Wells.

In approximately 1954, Laurette left home and went to work in a restaurant in St. Paul, until the summer of 1956. She then moved with her parents

ERIC ARGE FOISY

by Helene Coopey

Eric is the twelfth child, the sixth and last son born to Wilfred and Madeleine Foisy. He was born January 2, 1939 at the St. Theresa Hospital, St. Paul. Eric attended Foisy School then completed his grade seven at the St. Edouard School.

Eric also did his share of farm chores. As a young lad he also learned the fast dodging act to movements around home, each time ending in a strike to anyone around.

Eric with his dog-Buddy spent many hours trapping beavers on the St. Edouard family farm. He sold the pelts for some extra pocket money. Along with his other brothers, he learned to play the guitar and violin.

Eric, as his older brothers, did not follow in his father's footsteps as a farmer. As a young man he went to work in the British Columbia sawmills for a few years.

In 1960, Eric returned to St. Paul and married Lilian Hamel of St. Edouard. They were married in the St. Edouard Roman Catholic Church April 30, 1960. Lilian born May 29, 1942 was the daughter of Roger and Diana Hamel.

After their wedding Eric and Lilian went to Edmonton where he worked for a freezer plant for a year or so, then moved to Prince George, B.C. where home was for a few years. He was trucking, sold their home and moved to Hinton, Alberta and built themselves a home. They soon found themselves a home. They soon found themselves unhappy at Hinton so they sold their home and moved to Stettler, Alberta, and built another house for the family, also built a few more to sell. Still unsettled they left Stettler and back to St. Paul. After a few months they moved back to Hinton where they are presently residing. He is employed as a carpenter.

Eric and Lilian have 4 children; 1 daughter and 3 sons. Gerald born December 25, 1960, is the first and oldest grandson of Wilfred and Madeleine Foisy holding the Foisy name. Diane born April 5, 1962, Roger born May 5, 1963 and David born August 24, 1964.



Raymond and Laurette Lapointe (nee Foisy) and family: Marcel and Victor.

to Prince George, B.C. Here she married Raymond Lapointe of St. Edouard on February 1, 1957, son of Gerry and Courrana Lapointe. He was born January 22, 1937.

Raymond and Laurette made their home in Prince George, for a few years. He worked in the sawmills for a while then went into carpentry work for a builder contractor. After a few years they moved to Nanaimo, B.C. where they lived for a few years. Still doing carpenter work, he built his own home. In between jobs he built a few homes to sell, on his own. Later they moved to Kelowna, he is still working as a carpenter.

In 1979, they sold their home, and moved back to Red Deer where they are presently living.

Raymond and Laurette have 2 sons: Marcel born January 10, 1959 and Victor October 18, 1964. Laurette is working for the Red Deer Hospital as housekeeper. In her spare time she still loves to play the guitar and sing. She also loves camping and fishing. The only trouble is she needs the fishing rod tied with a string to her waist as she has a habit of throwing the lot in the lake.



Taken 1975. Eric and Lilian and Family. L-R: Gerald, David, Lilian, Eric George, Diane.

MRS. GERALD PACKER (ALICE B. FOISY)

by Helene Coopey

Alice is the thirteenth child, seventh daughter and youngest child born to Wilfred and Madeleine Foisy, April 9, 1940 at the St. Theresa Hospital, St. Paul. She attended Foisy School, then completed her schooling at the St. Edouard school district.



Taken 1979. Gerald and Alice Packer (nee Foisy) and Family. Front: Alice, Gerald, Deanna Rae, Back: Tammy and Brenda.

Alice shared the house work with mother, and in her spare time she learned to play the guitar and sang. Alice as a young girl often wrestled her brother Eric to the ground and he got sat on more times than he cared to count. She also loved to sneak out and go horseback riding. She is also the tallest (approx. 5' 6") of the girls.

The winter of 1956, Alice went to work in a St. Paul restaurant for a short while. In 1956, she moved to Prince George with her parents, where she lived for a year. After her sister Laurette's wedding, for whom she was a bridesmaid, Alice left her parents, and Prince George, and went to Portland, Oregon and stayed with her sister Jeannette. She worked in the same Department Store as her sister. This is where Alice met her husband. He was also working there. Gerald Packer was born October 11, 1940 in the U.S.A. Alice and Gerald were married in Portland, where they made their home and are still residing.

He is a machinist for a repair parts Department Store in Portland. Since her marriage Alice no longer works out, but babysits in her own home. In her spare time she still enjoys to sing and play her guitar.

They have three daughters; Brenda, born March 31, 1961, Tammy, on September 21, 1963 and Deanna Rae born July 26, 1951.

JOHN AND BETTY FORD

by John Ford

John Hector Ford was born to John Newton and Dorothy (nee Hace) Ford in May, 1932. He was

raised in Lumby, B.C. until the age of 13. The family did some logging and mixed farming.

John's ancestors originated from Scotland, and were in Canada for many years, as his grandfather Aaron plowed the first furrow for the railroad between Calgary and Edmonton in approximately 1890.

John and his family moved to Calgary in 1945. His dad did carpentry. John completed his grade eleven there.

In 1950, the family moved to Lousana, Alberta approximately 40 miles east of Red Deer. There, they bought a mixed farming operation.

In 1956, John purchased his father's land and started farming on his own.

He married Betty Knights, daughter of Arthur and Christina (nee Jeffrey) Knights. Betty was born in Elnora, Alberta in January of 1934.

Betty's father, Arthur, was born in Lousana, Alberta and her mother, Christina, was born in Scotland.

Betty attended school at Lousana. She met John in 1952. She then worked in Calgary from 1952 to 1955. Then, in April of 1956, John and Betty were married.

They farmed in Lousana until 1964 and then moved to Parson, B.C. and farmed and logged.

In 1975, they purchased the Mike Zacharuk farm N.E. 3-56-9-W4th and moved to the Lac Bellevue area.

Out of their union, six children were born.

Daniel John, was born at Three Hills, Alberta in September, 1957. He attended school at Lousana, Alberta, Parson, B.C. and then high school at Golden, B.C. He graduated from the St. Paul Regional High in St. Paul in 1976. He was an active 4H member for 3 years.



John Ford Family taken in 1977. Back row: Paul, Daniel, Philip, Aaron; Bottom row: Mark, Betty, John and Ester.

After his graduation from the Regional School, he attended the Peace River Bible Institute for three years. He graduated in April of 1979.

He met Loretta Waddell while away at school and they were married in August of 1979. She came from Dawson Creek, B.C.

They purchased the Dave Rentoul farm, (S.E. 28-56-9) and presently make it their home (originally Alex Harmatiuk farm).

Paul Timothy, was born in Elnora, Alberta in November, 1958. He attended school at Parson and Golden, B.C. and graduated from the Regional High School in St. Paul in 1976. He was an active 4H member for 3 years.

Paul also attended 3 years at the Peace River Bible Institute and graduated in the spring of 1979.

He is now Pastor at the Myrnam Bible Church and is apprenticing for a heavy duty mechanic. He is presently residing at home, but after May 23, he will be residing in Myrnam.

Alfred Peter Philip was born in September, 1960 in Elnora, Alberta. He also attended school at Parson and Golden, B.C. and Glen Avon School in St. Paul.

Philip was an active 4H member for 5 years. He graduated from the Regional School in St. Paul in 1978. He attended the Peace River Bible Institute and will be graduating in April, 1981 and will be residing at home.

Esther Elizabeth, was born in August of 1962. She attended school at Parson and Golden, B.C. and the Glen Avon and St. Paul Regional High, where she graduated in 1980. She was active in 4H for 7 years. She is presently attending the Prairie Bible Institute at Three Hills, Alberta.

Aaron Arthur was born in April, 1965 in Golden, B.C. He attended school at Parson, B.C. and Glen Avon and is presently attending Grade 10 at the Regional High in St. Paul, and residing at home. He was an active 4H member for 5 years.

Mark William was born in March, 1969 at Golden, B.C. He is presently in grade 6 at the Glen Avon School in St. Paul. Mark had 1 year in 4H.

John and Betty and their family have a mixed farm of sheep, commercial crossbred cattle, pigs and horses.

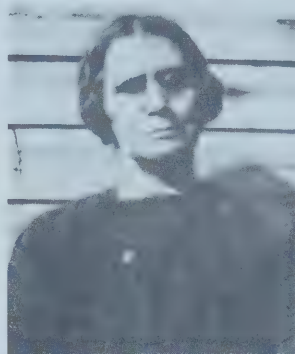
John takes great pride in his horses and is always interested in the heavy horse pulls. He placed second in the competition in St. Paul, in the fall of 1980.

Betty enjoys her family and sewing and is presently into raising registered Suffolk sheep. John and Betty and their family are very active in helping in the Canadian Sunday School Mission Camp, at Whitney Lake, and have been active members in the C.S.S.M. work in the Myrnam Bible Church.

JOSEPH FORTIN AND EMELIA FORTIN (TREMBLAY)

by Pauline Paziuk

Joseph Fortin was born in 1850 in Quebec. His wife Emelia Tremblay was also born in Quebec in 1871. They were married at Lac St. Jean, Quebec. They moved into the Lafond area in approximately 1904, where they homesteaded on S.W. 20-56-10-4.



Emelia Tremblay and Joseph Fortin. Maternal Grandparents of Laurent Robinson, taken at their home in St. Paul.

They raised a family of ten children: 5 boys, 5 girls.

Odellie, married Aimé Lafond, a farmer.

Marie, married Joseph Robinson, a farmer.

Leo married Emile Cloutier, a bartender at the Maurice Hotel in St. Paul.

Emma married Ernest Cloutier, justice of the peace.

Louis, single, veteran of the first war.

Francis, single, veteran of the first war.

Felix married Adele Boulduc, operated a store in St. Lina.

Anton married Sadie Whitford, odd jobs.

Berthe was an old maid and is believed to be living in a Senior Citizen's Lodge in Toronto.

Benoit married Bernadette Laplante. They are retired in Grand Centre.

Joseph Fortin passed away at the beautiful age of 79 on December 22, 1929. His wife Emelia passed away on Easter Sunday morning, April 19, 1949 at the age of 78.

YVETTE (THEROUX) FOSTER AND FAMILY

by Yvette Foster

I, Yvette Théroux, (second daughter of Armand Theroux and Therese Belisle) was born on February 23, 1946, at St. Joseph's Hospital in Vegreville, Alberta. We lived on the farm until 1951, at which time the farm was rented, and the family moved to Lafond. Dad was in the school bus business, bringing students to the Two Hills Schools. Mother was teaching in Lafond. At first, we lived in the old Foisy teacherage that had been moved to Lafond. Denise, my younger sister and I, were cared

for by Mrs. Cote, Madeleine's mother, during the school hours.

I started school in 1952 and graduated from Grade 12 in 1963. I attended College St. Jean in 1964-65, but after a year, realized teaching was not for me. In 1965-66, I attended the Northern Institute of Technology in Edmonton, taking a Banking and Finance Course.

From 1966-70, I worked at the Bank of Commerce in the C.N. Tower. I then went to work for Alberta Government Telephones, working in the Vehicle Department as budget clerk, for four years, then in the Engineering Department, in the budget area for 2½ years, when I retired.

I was married in 1968 and had a daughter, Christina, born in April 1969. Things did not work out and in 1970, I obtained my divorce. In 1974 this marriage was annulled.



Doug and Yvette Foster and family; Left to Right: Doug, Yvette, Melanie on Yvette's knee and Christina.

I was remarried in 1975, to Douglas Foster. We have a daughter, Melanie, born March 30, 1978. I am now, at home, a homemaker, doing some part time work outside my home, but involved in many community projects, one of which is Block Parents, also coordinator of the church library, involved in many school activities such as taking classes to the swimming pool, helping to prepare children for confirmation, etc.

I have many pleasant memories of my years in Lafond, some of which are: playing with the Bar-

tholomew and Mailloux girls and Yvette Foisy who lived up the road westward. We had many a fight but we always made up. I remember all the children from the neighborhood, seated on the floor in our living-room, watching television, the first one in the area.

I remember Father Lerouge and his beautiful black cats. I can't forget digging up quack grass in the nun's front lawn. Our music lessons with Sr. Euriella were very enjoyable. I remember that one day our cat died and we had a grand funeral for her; the boys were even involved, and so some 15 of us attended this sad event, all in single file, weeping in a manner appropriate to a funeral. The adults watching this, enjoyed the view, saying it was better than most movies.

Later, in my teens, I remember the Youth Club we organized to occupy the young people. We had formed softball teams. Some of those I recall were: Mariline Mailloux, Rachel Bergeron, Yvette Foisy, Denise Desaulniers, Aurele Jean, Henri Desaulniers, Gerard Trembly, Marcel Malo, Nelson Foisy, Honoré Foisy, Roger Theroux, Lionel Foisy and myself.

We had movies in the church basement on Sunday nights. That was the highlight of the week. We'd pop corn to sell during the movie: one week at our house, one week at Mailloux's. When we'd finish filling the big box of bags of popcorn, there would be butter and oil all over the stove and several bits of popped corn on the floor. At any rate, it was good fun.

Our community was a very happy place for children to grow up.

RICHARD FRAZER FAMILY

by Richard Frazer

I, Richard Frazer, son of Anthony (Tony) and Mary Frazer, was born on March 12, 1945 in St. Paul, Alberta. I attended school (grades 1-11) in St. Paul. As a young boy, I spent most of my time on my grandparents' (John and Annie Zacharko) farm, where I learned the farming trade. As a teenager, I worked for my father who, at the time, owned and operated the Orange Crush Plant in St. Paul. I spent much of my time helping with the bottling process, and also the delivering of soft drinks to various communities within St. Paul and District, but my main interest was in farming. In 1964, we purchased some land next to Lac Bellevue (N.E. 12-56-10-W4) from Mr. Harry Taschuk. We then purchased a few head of cattle and my father and I began our farming operation. Land clearing and many miles of fencing was done in our early years of farming. More land was purchased with more clearing and fencing done and our cow/calf operation increased. My father and I farmed together until his death in 1975. At present, this farming operation is solely a one



Left to right: Richard, Paulette, Tina and Karen.

man operation with some help from my wife and daughters.

On July 27, 1968 I married Paulette Genereux, daughter of Heliodore (Ted) and Anne Genereux of St. Paul. Paulette was born July 25, 1947 in St. Paul, Alberta. She attended school (grades 1-12) in St. Paul. After graduation, Paulette then went to Edmonton where she attended Gardner Commercial School to further her education in the secretarial field. Upon her return to St. Paul, her first employment was as a receptionist in Dr. Melenchuks' Office (Optometrist) and from there moved on with Alberta Government Telephones as a Clerk-Stenographer. She is presently employed as a Clerk-Stenographer with the Government of Alberta (Department of Recreation and Parks).

When Paulette and I were married, we had our wedding reception and dance at the farm, which was held in a house (and outdoors) situated on the land where family and friends joined us in our celebration. A few years later, we remodelled this house in which my wife, daughters and I are presently living. A new home is being planned in the near future.

Paulette and I have two daughters — Karen born on October 17, 1968 and Tina born December 8, 1970. Both our daughters are attending school in St. Paul. My being of the Ukrainian nationality,

and my wife being of the French nationality, our daughters are learning the art of Ukrainian dancing and also the French language. Also, both our daughters have an interest in horses.

I would like to add a note of interest with regards to my wife's family and mine. Shortly after my mother and father were married, my father was involved in a shooting accident. He was hospitalized for a long period of time and also had numerous operations where he also required blood transfusions. My wife's father having that blood type was able to donate his blood to help save my father.

ANDREW GADOWSKI FAMILY

by Stan Gadowski

Our father, Andrew, arrived in Canada in 1913. He left Ukraine in search of a better life. Our father worked in Winnipeg for a month and then left for Calgary, where he joined his brothers, Mike and Ignace. Dad and his brothers worked for the C.P.R. Company. In July, 1914, our father and his brothers left for homesteads in the St. Paul area. He homesteaded in the Lac Canard School District until 1926



Andrew and Paraska Gadowski — their wedding Feb. 5, 1917.
Marriage took place in St. Paul.



Andrew Gadowski's three daughters L-R: Mary, Rowena, Anna.

(S.E. 33-56-9-W4th). Previously, he met Paraska Fakas and married her in February, 1917.

Late in November, 1917, Stanley was born. Stanley married Dorothy Hauca in 1943. They reside in Edmonton. They have no family.

In 1919, Anna was born. She married Jerry Bouchard of St. Paul. They had one daughter, Brenda Vaughan. Anna resides in Los Angeles, California and her daughter resides in New York, U.S.A.

In April, 1924, Mary was born. She married Leonard Worobec in 1945. They now reside in Calgary.

His second farm in the Henley District was bought in 1926, where he moved his family that spring. His family lived there until 1932. Then he bought Bill Halina's land, just a half mile east of the present Lac Bellevue Hall.

There Edward was born in May, 1932. He married Irene Boratynec in 1953. Their family consists of Diane, Glen and Gino. Edward and Irene reside in Edmonton.

In 1935, Albert was born. He married Agnes Dzicki in 1959. They have three children; Leonard,



Andrew Gadowski's three sons L-R: Stanley, Eddy, Albert.

Lisa and Leslie. Albert lived in Elk Point with his family for many years until his passing in 1976.

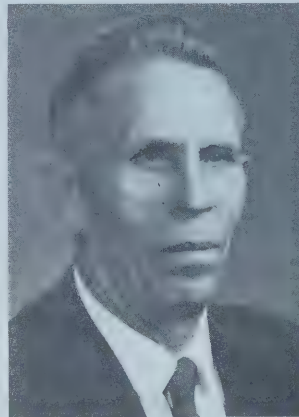
In May, 1939, the youngest child Rowena was born. She married Joseph Mazurek in 1958. They have four children; Michael, Peter, David, and Carol Ann. Rowena's family resides in Edmonton.

On October 15th, 1950 Father passed away leaving his wife and six children. On July 11, 1958, our Mother passed away.

THE HISTORY OF THE IGNACE GADOWSKI FAMILY

by the children of Antonia and Ignace Gadowski

Ignace Gadowski, our father, was born on February 16, 1894, in the village of Niskolieze, in the Bucach region of Poland. Dad was orphaned before he was a year old, and was mothered by his oldest sister, Tillie. He was the youngest of a family of five boys and one girl.



Our father, Ignace Gadowski



Our mother, Antonia Gadowski.

In 1911, Dad followed two older brothers, Mike and Andrew, to Canada, to seek a better life. Joe, another older brother, came to Canada several years later. An older brother, Stanley, and Dad's only sister, Tillie, remained in Poland.

In his first years in Canada, Dad worked at the Canmore coalmines, as a miner. For a young boy, of Dad's age, the work was extremely difficult, and the pay was quite inadequate. Later Dad worked at the C.P.R. Ogden Shops in Calgary. It was while Dad was in Calgary that he met mother, then Antonia Paziuk. During the First World War period, Dad moved out of Calgary to the homesteads in the Lac Bellevue area. It would seem that at about the same time, the Paziuk family also left Calgary, and took up a homestead in this area. Here, in the wilderness, a romance blossomed and dad and mother, Ignace Gadowski and Antonia Paziuk, were married at St. Paul, Alberta, on February 12, 1918.

Young and hopeful of a bright and promising future, Dad and mother both took to the difficult



The Ignace Gadowski Family (1945) Front row: Agnes, Our Mother, Ada, Julia. Standing: Josephine, Alice, Ludwig, Margaret, Regina, Our Father.

back-breaking job of clearing the land. This must have been a very trying experience. However, the one-quarter section of grey wooded, rocky soil seemed to provide at least the bare necessities of life. Dad and mother raised a large family of one son, and seven daughters. From the oldest to the youngest they are: Ludwig of St. Paul, Regina Proskiw of Edmonton, Josephine Bartoszyk of Edmonton, Julia McMillan of Myrnam, Margaret Dolsky of Smoky Lake, Ada Faris of Edmonton, Alice Hovelkamp of St. Paul, and Agnes Dudar of Edmonton.

Dad and mother were most concerned about the well-being of their young, growing children; concerned about their health, their education, and also their material well-being. This must have been an extremely difficult task, when one remembers the depression of the early twenties, and the Great Depression of the thirties. The long, hot summer of 1929 ended, and the ten lost years of the Great Depression began. Prairie wheat sold for an all-time low of 18 cents a bushel. The years of the depression coincided with one of the worst droughts the prairies had ever experienced. The leanest years was perhaps 1935, when the great hailstorm struck, including the Lac Bellevue area, and demolished everything in its path. However, dad and mother did not lose hope, and continued to do everything in their power to see their young, growing family through this crisis. At this time, and for several years to come, Dan Zahorodny, our great grandfather on mother's side of the family, lived with us. This meant another mouth to feed, but he was most welcome to the little there was to offer.

Just when it seemed that all would turn out well with the family growing up, and the children as young adults beginning to look out for themselves,

and helping their parents to alleviate their burdens, mom took very ill. She developed gallop cancer, and died on April 18, 1948, at the young age of forty-six years.

This terrible tragedy left dad very alone, now that his companion was gone. With the four youngest daughters, and son Ludwig and daughter-in-law Jean, dad continued to live on the family homestead (by now he had acquired another quarter-section of land) for the next ten years. We, his children, even today think that dad never really accepted the unfortunate loss of a dear wife. Dad devoted the rest of his life entirely to us, his children, and to his grandchildren. In them, he found his solace and purpose for life, during these otherwise lonely years.

Dad and mother understood the plight of the poor, being poor themselves. They both found contentment among men and women with similar beliefs. They both enjoyed reading the Ukrainian working-class papers, and they took an active part in the community life in the Lac Bellevue district. Dad was an active member of the Progressive Ukrainian organization at Lac Bellevue from its inception in the early twenties. The communication void of the twenties, thirties and forties, was largely overcome by the active organization of drama portraying concerts, and social life of the community. Dad was indeed a composer. He produced some of the finest drama of the time, with the added feature of portraying these with a background of experience of life itself. That was, of course, before



Our Mother, Antonia Gadowski, with her mother and sisters: Seated is Grandmother Tessie Paziuk, Standing: Helen, Elsie, Mother.



Standing (Left to Right): Sam Dudar, Jean Gadowski, Ludwig Gadowski, Mike Dolski, Ewald Hovelkamp, Roger McMillan, Bill Proskiw, Regina Proskiw, Joe Bartoshyk, Tony Faris. (Front Row — Left to Right): Agnes Dudar, Margaret Dolski, Alice Hovelkamp, Julia McMillan, Josie Bartoshyk, Ada Faris.

All the little things that matter,
We recall these with a sigh.

The joys of early childhood,
The ringing voice of friends,
We recall these very vividly,
Old friendship never ends.

Our parents seldom faltered,
When their young ones came to call,
Our problems — be they big or small,
Dad and Mother listened to us all.

Our hair to wash, our clothes to press,
Our lard pails to fill with lunch,
It must have been a tedious job.
To daily care for the bunch.

They sent us off each day to school,
Dad said "The 3 r's is a must",
So off to good old Lac Canard,
Alberta teachers, we all did trust.

The many hours the teachers spent,
Each day, so faithfully,
School time, noon hours, after school,
We thank you gratefully.

To our parents and teachers,
And to all in yester year,
For a super effort and a job well done,
Thanks, for getting us here.

Our parents laboured endlessly,
They had no time to spare,
So their children could enjoy,
The riches of Alberta, these for all to share.

Our loving parents, now departed,
God Bless — Too soon came their time,
A legacy they left behind,
Thoughts, memories, and recollections — **SUBLIME!**

Dedicated by the family, to our
loving parents, Antonia and Ignace Gadowski,
of Lac Bellevue.

FAMILY HISTORY OF JOE GADOWSKI

by Stanley J. Gadowski

Joe Gadowski was born in Poland. He married Nancy Pletenchuk and they farmed six morgs of land. Since this was not enough land to provide for their family needs, Joe and Nancy worked for big landlords, for next to nothing, in order to make ends meet. In 1914, World War I broke out, and Joe was called to the Army, where he served for five years. After returning from the Army, Joe realized that the future for his family was quite bleak in his homeland, so he decided to go to Canada, and start a new life. Joe arrived in Canada in 1925 and came to the Lac Bellevue district where he bought a farm from his brother Andrew. The exact location of the



The Joe Gadowski Family 1947. Left to right: Ted; Olga; Stanley; Dad; Mom; Annie and Stella.

farm was S.E. 33-56-9-4. In order to earn enough money to bring his wife and family to Canada, Joe got a job working on the C.N.R. line, which was being built from St. Paul to Elk Point and Heinsburg. By 1926, Joe had earned enough money to send for his family and that year his wife and their four children joined him in Canada. The four children and their ages when arriving were as follows: Stanley; 12 years old, Annie; 7 years old, Ignace; 5 years old, and Ted, 1 year old. Two of Joe's and Nancy's children, Stella, and Olga, were born in Canada. In 1928, Joe's family mourned the loss of one of its members. Ignace died at the young age of seven years. Joe and Nancy continued to farm in the Lac Bellevue district for a number of years. In 1952, Nancy died from cancer and a few years later their youngest son, Ted, took over the farming operation. After retiring, Joe moved to St. Paul where he bought a house. He lived by himself for a few years and then decided to sell the house and live with his daughter Annie. In 1967, Joe died at the age of 76 and was buried beside his wife in the St. Michael's Cemetery in the Lac Bellevue District.

LUDWIG GADOWSKI FAMILY

by Evelyn Kowtun

Ludwig and Jean Gadowski have resided in the Lac Bellevue area since birth. Ludwig, was in fact born on his father's homestead, on February 2, 1919, the eldest in a family of eight.

Jean, daughter of Tom and Anna Taschuk, was born in Ukraine, and emigrated to Canada at the age of 6 years. They were married on January 12, 1941 on an extremely warm chinook day. They were married in St. Paul, Alberta.

One of Dad's favourite stories is about cutting brush all week for Mrs. George Fakas for the sum of \$6.50. He blew this money in one shot by hiring a car to take Jean on their first date — to Nancy and Fred Paziuk's wedding, where Ludwig was bestman.

Jean and Ludwig's first home was with Ludwig's folks. Then they fixed up a small shack in the same yard and the young couple set up independent housekeeping. They moved to the S.E. 23-56-9-W4th in 1945, purchased from Fakas' for \$1800. All that remains of the old yard, are a couple of granaries, and a chicken coop. About 75 acres of land were broken at the time of purchase. They purchased the N.E. 14-56-9-W4 in 1939 from the Canadian National Bank for \$1100. Ludwig farmed alongside his father since the age of 8 years.



Ludwig Gadowski — 1939 — with his horse "Sorel".

As a child Ludwig attended Lac Canard School — he started school at age 5 — this was the first year of operation of the school. Most of the travel in those days was done by saddle horse until 1938. In 1938 their first car was purchased — a black 2 door Ford — purchased from T.C. Ashworth for \$775 (known as Myrnam Motors). Their first tractor was a 38 John Deere steel wheel job — with no starter. The first threshing machine was purchased in company — Ignace, Andrew and Mike Gadowski and George Kaszefski in 1938. In 1946 Ludwig purchased his first personal threshing machine and threshed in the area for many years with Tony Ostropolski, Stan Gadowski, Fred Paziuk, Paul and John Krys, and Godo Taschuk. Finally in 1958-59 came the demise of the threshing machine with the purchase of a combine. This same fall not one acre was combined — the entire harvest was snowed under.

Jean and Ludwig have been active community members in the area. Ludwig has served on the St. Paul and District Co-op Board since 1956. He has been a member of the St. Paul Grazing Association since its inception. He was also the Secretary of the Lac Canard School Board for about 6 years, and has



Jean and Ludwig Gadowski — January 12, 1941. Left to right: Harry Taschuk; Joe Gadowski, Stanley Gadowski, Ludwig and Jean; Mike Popowich, Alex Popowich, Josie Gadowski, Ann Zavadiuk.



Threshing the harvest of 1938 at Ignace Gadowski's.

served as President of Lac Bellevue Hall for many years. He is currently a member of the St. Michael's Cemetery Committee. He was also instrumental in extending electrical power in the area and was Secretary of the St. Paul South R.E.A. As well, he served on the St. Paul Seed Cleaning Plant Board.

Jean and Ludwig have operated a mixed farm all their lives. Extra income came from cream shipped to St. Paul, eggs sold locally, and from turkeys and chickens. They raised a production flock for the St. Paul Hatcheries for about 20 years.

They have also been in the cattle business for about 40 years — purchasing their first purebred Hereford bull in 1944. Jean spends her summer hours in her very large productive garden. In winter, she's an enthusiastic ice fisherman.

Gradually their farming operation is streamlining in order to eliminate some of the labour and enable them to take things easier. In 1978, Jean made a trip of her dreams to visit her birthplace in the Ukraine.

Jean and Ludwig have two children — Evelyn, born in 1946 and Dwain, born in 1952.

Evelyn married Russ Kowtun in 1968 and have recently moved to the area — they reside on Gido Gadowski's homestead. Dwain graduated from the St. Paul Regional High School, then in University of Alberta, and is employed in the Computers and Research Division of the Solicitor General Dept. He resides in Edmonton.



Ludwig and Jean Gadowski 25th wedding Anniversary, January 1966.



Ludwig Gadowski Family; Left to right: Russ Kowtun, Evelyn Kowtun; Jean and Ludwig Gadowski, Jeanne Green, Dwain Gadowski.

MARY AND PETER GADOWSKY

by Mary Gadowsky

After graduating from Camrose Normal School, I commenced my long teaching career in the fall of 1936 in Lac Canard School, in the Lac Bellevue District. On November 11th, 1938, I married Peter Gadowsky, the son of Apolonia and Mike Gadowsky. November 11th, 1938 fell on a Friday which meant that I had a long week-end of holiday and was back in the classroom on Monday. Very few people were in a position to take honeymoon trips.



Mary Pawlyk (Gadowsky) just after graduating from Camrose Normal School — 1936.

Peter devoted all his time to farming, with his parents. All the farming operations were done by horses. As I recall, there were only two tractors and three cars in the community. Trips to St. Paul had to be made by team of horses and wagon in the summer, and sleigh in the winter.

Lac Bellevue District is noted for its rocky land. Many hours had to be spent clearing the land of rocks; some large and millions of small ones. It seemed like there was no end to rock picking. In spring, Peter's parents and I helped with picking



Mary and Peter Gadowsky with their son Orson.

rocks. The walls of rocks along the fence lines still remain and remind me of the Great Wall of China. No one sprayed crops in those days. In the summer, we cleared the fields of buckwheat and sow thistle weeds by hand.

Peter had one quarter of land of his own. Later we bought another quarter from Walter Bayrak who was leaving the district. We also purchased one more quarter in the neighboring Lake Eliza district to serve as pasture land. The rocky land was hard on the machinery and the breakages required many repairs.

Through hard work, thrift and perseverance, we were able to improve our two-room home, acquire some machinery and start a small herd of cattle.

Our son Orson was born on November 3rd, 1943. Dr. Decosse's fee for the delivery was \$20.00. My stay in the St. Paul Hospital amounted to \$23.05 making the total bill of \$43.05.

Peter had a great love for animals. He invested in ponies, goats, rabbits and dogs. As our son was growing up, he was introduced to horse riding by his father. We had great excitement when twin colts were born and immediately named "Queen" and "King" as we thought the world of them. We also took pride in having our calf "Daisy" win first prize at the local field day. I recall when we had the mishap of having our goat fall into the uncovered well. It was quite a feat to bail out the goat and all



Orson with pet kid near the Peter Gadowsky's first house at Lac Bellevue.

the water from the well to get it cleaned. Those were the happiest years of our lives. We cherish the fond memories of years spent on the farm.

Peter was musically inclined and played in the local orchestra. Each member charged between \$1.00 and \$2.00 for the night of playing, until the wee hours of the morning. The admission to the dance was 25¢ per person and the gentlemen usually paid for the ladies. The dances were held in the Lac Bellevue Community Hall. Young and old enjoyed the dancing. As there were no babysitters in those days, the babies were brought to the hall and laid on the stage on quilts and blankets. The local people also had a drama club which was conducted by Mr. Ignace Gadowsky, Peter's uncle. Many plays and comedies were staged with some excellent performances.

Unfortunately, just as we were beginning to feel successful, Peter had to give up farming due to ill health. He enrolled in the Calgary School of Technology and spent many months during the next three years taking training in the welding and bodyshop courses, in which he was successful. The following years he worked for Caskey Motors and Tannas in St. Paul. He also worked at Westlock and Cold Lake.

In 1951, I was transferred to Myrnam School. As the schools were being centralized, Peter was

able to purchase a school bus which he operated for a number of years, transporting children from the Pathfinder District to Myrnam School, in the County of Two Hills. He also worked in the local garages. In 1961, he obtained a position as a custodian in the Myrnam Hospital, where he worked until his passing away on September 17th, 1969.

Our son Orson is married to Vivian Metrunec, the daughter of Mary and Steve Metrunec from Myrnam. He is a teacher and at present is employed with the Edmonton Public School Board. They have two daughters, Karen and Shannon, and a son Craig.



Joe Gadowsky, Peter's brother helping with harvesting while on leave from the army.

MY FIRST TEACHING YEARS:

by Mary Gadowsky (Pawlyk)

I graduated from Camrose Normal School in the spring of 1936. Teaching positions were difficult to obtain, as there were very few vacancies and many unemployed teachers. With the recommendation of my former principal, Mr. William Teresio who had taught in the district previously, I was fortunate to be hired by the local board of the Lac Canard District No. 4080. The chairman of the school was Mr. Walter Bayrak, Mr. Walter Kitiuk was secretary, and the trustees were Mr. Andrew Gadowsky and Mr. Gerard Thoben. I signed the contract for the annual salary of \$840.00. According to the terms of the contract, \$140.00 was to be deducted for the rent of the teacherage, which was comprised of one small room. I was also assigned the duties of starting the fires in the mornings, and cleaning the school.

The cheques never arrived regularly, as the local boards had to depend on the government grants and the taxes of the ratepayers. The district had been hauled out for three years in succession and as a result the farmers were unable to pay their taxes. The teachers had to wait until the government grant arrived to receive a partial payment for their service as the money had to be shared by the preceding teachers to whom the board owed back pay. I received my first cheque for \$80.00 just before Christmas. For the four months prior to that I had to rely on my parents for food.



Pupils in Lac Canard School.



Pupils in Beela School.

The enrollment of the school was heavy, comprising of over fifty pupils from grades 1 to 8. There were four families of Gadowsky brothers. Surnames of other pupils which stand out in my memory are: Makowecki, Ostropolski, Prysunka, Malek, Halina, Linkewich, Kotowich, Krissa, Lakusta, Krys, Bagan, Aksenchuk, Milan, Bayrak, Thoben, Kitiuk, Kaszefski, Rawluk, Serdiak, Serniak.

The early years of teaching were the happiest of my career. Teachers who taught in the "little red school house" experienced the true community spirit. Education was considered to be a prize possession and teachers were respected by both the children and the parents.

After three years, a second classroom was added and Mr. Nick Karatiw became the principal of the two room school. Later Rose Slevinsky (Bagan) assumed that position. I taught in Lac Canard for five years from 1936 to 1941. In 1938 I married Peter Gadowsky, son of Mike Gadowsky.

By now the school divisions in the area were being formed. Lac Canard School was included in the Two Hills School Division No. 4360, located north of the North Saskatchewan River. The enrollment was light. Some of the pupils who attended Beela School are Popowich, Barlada, Tymofichuk, Zayak, Lestoa, Trach, Zawaliwski, Hryherchuk, Zawadiuk, Sereda.



Rose Slevinsky (Bagan), Mary Pawlyk (Gadowsky). Teachers of Lac Canard School — 1940.

Beela District was more isolated. The families lived far apart. The pupils lived long distances from the school and most of them came on horse back, or with a buggy. Fortunately Lac Bellevue Post Office was across the lake from the school, so in the summer, my husband and I used the boat to get the weekly mail. In the winter, the ice on the lake provided the road for sleigh transportation. Mr. Noel was the postmaster. I must also add that



Beela (teacherage in the background). Pupils coming to school on horseback and buggies.

Lac Bellevue provided us with fresh fish all year round, and many hours of recreation.

Most of the pupils were musically inclined and since the enrollment was light, we organized a school orchestra, including all the pupils, playing whatever instruments were available. The pupils enjoyed this extra curricular activity and no doubt many have fond memories of this past experience. Our orchestra participated in the music festivals and community talent shows.

These were the war years. There was a demand for used rubber items, such as old tires and boots, also the bleached prairie bones. The pupils collected a full wagon of these items and we realized about thirty dollars from the sale. We were then able to buy a radio which gave us many hours of listening enjoyment.

In 1944, I was transferred to Henley School No. 3457, which was a two room school in the Two Hills Division. I taught the primary grades from 1 to 4. Miss Hauca (Gadowsky) was the principal. We both had over sixty pupils. Names of pupils who attended were Sikorski, Worobec, Makow-ecki, Petruk, Proski, Berezanski, Poloway, Haw-reluk, Lasichuk, Oneschuk, Yuschyshyn, Tymofichuk, Yaremko, Poliwoda, Hancheruk, Sha-run, Kryvenchuk, Fodchuk, Zacharuk, Kish, Ku-riluk, Gorash, Strong. I taught in Henley School for seven years up to 1951.

The teaching profession is very demanding, but rewarding. I found it very challenging. It gives me great pride that most of my former students have been successful in whatever field of endeavor they chose. It is very gratifying to be greeted with the words "Remember me? You were my teacher".

MR. AND MRS. MICHEAL AND APOLONIA GADOWSKI

In the summer of 1907, Micheal Gadowski, age 23, and Apolonia Kwiatkowski age 18, both single, left their native Poland with a group of people to make their home in a new and prosperous country, Canada, leaving behind their beloved families.

Micheal found work as a blacksmith with C.P.R. and Apolonia as a house maid for a Jewish family in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

After two years of work, in 1909, Apolonia returned to her homeland, Poland.

In 1911, Micheal was transferred with his job to Calgary, Alberta. By then he had saved enough money for Apolonia's return. As soon as she arrived in Calgary, they were married.

Their first child, Julia was born in 1913. In 1914, with their baby they moved to a homestead in Lac Bellevue, Alberta, where they lived in a dugout until their log house was built. They laboured by hand at clearing their land.



Top row: Joe, Micheline, Julia, Rose, and Peter. Bottom Row: Micheal, and Apolonia. Picture taken in about 1944, at the homestead at Lac Bellevue.



Mike and Apolonia Gadowski. At their Lac Bellevue residence.



Mike Gadowski, Peter's Father Stooking.

Their family grew larger, Peter was born in 1915, Rosie in 1917, Joe in 1918, and Micheline in 1920. With a larger family to support, more land was needed. Micheal got a part time job on the railroad with the C.N.R., which enabled him to purchase a quarter section of land from Mr. Proskurniak. As the children grew older he purchased a quarter section of land from Walter Bayrack and another quarter section from Louis Halina.

Julia married Nick Scraba in 1930 and they made their home at Lafond, Alberta. They had 5 children: Alberta, Alvina, May, Florence and John.

Rosie married John Makoweski, in 1934 and farmed in Lac Bellevue, where their two children, Louis and Regina were born.

Peter married Mary Pawlyk of Derwent, Alberta in 1938, and farmed in Lac Bellevue where their son, Orson was born.

Micheline married Joe Wengzynowski of Flat Lake, Alberta in 1939, and they made their home in St. Paul, Alberta. They had one daughter, Eleanor.

Joe was called to serve in the army in 1941. While in the army he met Valie Macura of Thunder Bay, Ontario. After his release from service in 1942, they were married and they made their home in Thunder Bay, Ontario. They had two daughters, Karen and Paula. Joe Wengzynowski also served in the army from 1944 to 1945.

In June of 1952, Apolonia passed away at the age of 63 years. Micheal lived alone till August 1953. Then he married Mrs. Annie Makowecki. In 1954, Micheal and Annie both retired in the town of St. Paul, Alberta.

In January of 1962, Micheal was widowed again. The last years of his life were spent in a Nursing Home in St. Paul, Alberta, and in October of 1969, he passed away at the age of 84 years. He was predeceased by his two sons, Joe on September 4th, 1968 and Peter September 17th, 1969. Micheal and Apolonia were blessed with eleven grandchildren, thirteen great - grandchildren and two great great grandchildren.

This is 1980, Julia lives in Edmonton, Alberta, Rosie in Bonnyville, Alberta and Micheline in St. Paul, Alberta.

FAMILY HISTORY OF STANLEY J. GADOWSKI

by Stanley Gadowski

I was born in Poland on August 18, 1914. When I was twelve years old, I moved to Canada and came to the Lac Bellevue District where my father had bought a farm. I attended school for three years and helped my father on the farm.

In 1934, I bought a farm of my own and started the difficult task of breaking land and putting up buildings. Eight years later, on May 3rd, 1942, I married Annie Linkewich. We raised three girls and one boy. Our oldest girl, Adeline, married Ed Smuk, a teacher in Heinsburg. She completed her education after marrying Ed and is also teaching in Heinsburg. Ed and Adeline have two girls; Loretta and Edlyn. Our second daughter, Edna married Mike Tymchuk and they are presently farming in the Lac Bellevue District. They have three children; Sharon, Wayne and Shawn. Our youngest daughter, Alma, married Jim Conrad. They are presently living in St. Paul, where Jim is teaching. Jim and Alma have two boys; Curtis and Jason. The



Stanley Gadowski family Back L-R: Alma, Terry, Edna, Adeline. Front: Stanley, Annie. — 1975.



This is for Stanley's History, Stanley Gadowski operator, Frank Linkewich throwing blocks. Andrew Zuk feeding the saw. Mike Slywa, Joe Linkewich and Eddie Ostropolski.



Cutting grain on the Stanley Gadowski farm in 1947. Stan on binder.

youngest of our children, Terry is still at home and is working as a partsman for Zarowny Motors in St. Paul.

We quit farming in May of 1970 and moved to St. Paul, where we bought a home. My wife Annie worked in the nursing home for two years and then worked in the hospital for a while. She is now working at the Galaxy Motel. I worked for Zarowny Motors in St. Paul for five years. In 1976, I retired and am now on pension.

JOSEPH AND TED GADOWSKI AND FAMILY

This is a story of the Joseph Gadowski family. Joseph was one of the five sons born in Poland to Stanislaw Gadowski. After completing his schooling, he married Nancy Pletenchuk in 1913. In 1914, he was called to the Army. Twenty days after he

left for the Army, his first son Stanley was born. The father did not see his son until he returned from war in 1918. Finding life very bad in Poland, after the war, Joseph left for Canada in 1925 to follow his three brothers who had moved to Canada earlier. In 1926, his wife Nancy and her four children had arrived in Canada. The children's names were Stanley, Annie, Ted and Ignace. Later, two daughters were born; Stella and Olga. They farmed in the Lac Bellevue area until Mrs. Gadowski died of cancer in 1952. Mr. Gadowski died in 1966. His son Stanley is now retired and lives with his wife in St. Paul. His daughter, Annie, (Mrs. Mike Zacharuk) lives in Edmonton. His daughter Stella, (Mrs. Joe Krankowski) died in 1969



Photo of old John Deere used to farm in about 1945.



This photo shows Mrs. Gadowski when she came from Poland in 1926 with her 4 children. Standing in this photo on the left is Ignace, who passed away in 1928. Seated on left is Annie, 10 yrs. old, Ted 1½ yrs. old, and Stanley 12.

in Toronto. His youngest daughter, Olga, lives in Sherwood Park. Ted lives on a farm and here is his story. I will give a story of my life in Canada. I went to school until the age of 15, when I quit school to help my parents farm. Farming in those days was mostly with horses. Later on, we bought an old tractor for about \$500.00. This was used until 1952, when I bought a new Massey Harris tractor. My mother also passed away this year (1952). From that time, I farmed with my father until 1957, when I got a job in St. Paul. The next year, I married Dora Purificati and moved to a farm we bought four miles north of St. Paul.

We have three children. Farming is now much easier, as we have running water and electricity. We can now make a very comfortable living on the farm.

LIONEL AND ALBINA GAGNÉ

by Denise Ference

Lionel Gagné, son of Odilon, married Albina Robinson, daughter of Francis and Annette Robinson on July 4, 1946. They were married in St. Bernard's Church, Lafond, by Father Mailloux. They settled on Odilon Gagné's farm, where Lionel had been living for the previous three years, after his father had moved to St. Paul.

Threshing time was very hectic for the first few years, as 12 men were working, all of whom had to be fed. This task was shared by Albina and Annette



Odillon Gagné's house. Older house on left built in 1905. New one on right built in 1937.



Lionel and Albina Gagné's wedding day L-R: Albina, Father Paul Mailloux, Lionel Gagné.

Gagné. There was no power or running water, and the meat was being kept in lockers in St. Paul.

Odilon Gagné had built his house in 1905 and a newer home was built in 1937. These houses were ½ mile from the road. Lionel and Albina lived in the newer house until 1954 when their children were starting school, and they would have to move closer to the road in order for the school bus to pick up their children. The power would also be available at the new location. A new house was built in 1954 by Laurent Robinson, with the help of Maurice and Fernand Quirion from Quebec. The buildings were moved to the new farm site which was one mile south of Lafond. A moving company was hired to move the two barns. When they were half way, one of the barns was coming partly apart, therefore slowing everything down. The whole moving process took two weeks.



Lionel and Albina's 6 bedroom house built in 1954, in background. Children enjoying a ride in the 2-wheel cart.

The new house was ready for occupancy in September 1954. The house was a big 6-bedroom home, with power. A cistern was built in the basement, from which they got their water until 1957, when running water was installed.

Lionel was doing mixed farming with the bigger percentage of his land being in hay. He had Registered Herefords for a number of years. At the time of his auction sale, he owned 100 head of cattle. The children were in 4-H Beef for a number of years with these cattle, some of which earned Reserved Grand Champion.

Lionel and Albina sold the farm in 1972, after many years of hard work and moved to St. Paul, where they are both employed at the present time. Lionel is a maintenance man for Indian Affairs and Albina is doing housekeeping at the hospital on a part-time basis. St. Paul life gives them more time for relaxation, and camping, which they both enjoy.



The Lionel Gagné Family on Lionel and Albina's 25th Wedding Anniversary, July 4, 1971. Seated: L-R — Albina, Leonard, Robert, Lionel. Standing: Doris, Lorraine, Denise, Dianne, Léo, Rita, Thérèse.

Lionel and Albina had nine children. The family is as follows:

Denise — married Laurence Ference July 1970. They live in St. Paul where they own their own plumbing business. They have three children: Bradley 6 years, Krystal - 2 years and Krystian 6 months.

Dianne — married Roy Paquette — October 18, 1969. They live in Edmonton. Roy works for QCTV. They have three girls: Cindy 11 years, Tracy 8 years and Debby 6 years.

Lorraine — married Réal Labrie, Apr. 6, 1974. They live in St. Paul. Réal works for Car Ouells. They have two boys: Michael 2 years and Trevor 6 months.

Leo — married Leona Binette, June 23, 1979. They are living in St. Paul. Léo is loans manager at the Credit Union. Leona is a Psychometrist at Regional High School.

Doris — married Doug Redmond, August 12, 1978. They live in Blairmore. Doug is a R.C.M.P., Doris is a secretary for a real estate company.

Rita - Lives in Edmonton and works for the Co-op. Thérèse — Lives in St. Paul and is employed with Canada Manpower. Robert and Leonard, are still at home and in school. Robert is in grade 10 and Leonard in grade 7.

THE ODILON GAGNE FAMILY

by Clemence Joly

Odilon Gagné, born March 10, 1872, left Rimouski, in the north eastern part of Quebec, in the year 1900, to work in the lumber camps of northern Ontario for two years, before going to British Columbia to work for mining companies.

On his way to British Columbia, in the winter of 1902, when passing through the southern part of what was then the North West Territories, that is around Pincher Creek, he noticed that the cattle



Family picture of Odilon Gagné taken in 1935. Back row: Germain, Marie, Florence, Argé, Lucille, Irene, Middle row: Clemence, Laurence, Lionel, Maurice, Front: Marcel, Fernande.



Mr. and Mrs. Odilon Gagné, with baby Irene, taken in 1912.

were still in the pastures in the middle of the winter, so he decided that if he went into farming, it would be in such a region that he would like to be. After working in Trail, B.C. for two years, he came back to Pincher Creek, where he worked for a farmer, that is, Mr. Routhier — father of Bishop Henri Routhier. There, he heard about the free land that settlers could get up north, so he went there to start ranching, not knowing that it would not be the same climate as at Pincher Creek. He took the train to Edmonton and there met the Lafonds, Leonard, Charles-Barome Sr. and family, who were also looking for homesteads. They left Edmonton going east to Brosseau, then north-east to what was to become Lafond District.

After looking the land over, Odilon chose the south-east quarter section 30, Township 56, Range 10, Meridian 4, where a running creek was to provide year-round water and hay, and also vacant land all around for pasture. He decided that it was a good place to start ranching. The new-comers returned to Edmonton to file claims to their homesteads and to get equipment and supplies. After they had done their shopping, they built a raft near the

river and loaded their goods on it, including a hay rake and a mower, and down the river they went to Brosseau. There they took the raft apart and hauled it to the homestead where Odilon used the lumber for his shack, which he built by the creek. This shack and most of his belongings burned down the following spring when a prairie fire swept across the whole countryside. Soon after these events, settlers started coming in to take homesteads. Among the first were George Robinson Sr., Jack Chester, Mr. Nickolaichuk Sr. and Jos Poitras. Their place of business was Brosseau where there was a store, a stopping place and a Post Office. After a while a Post Office was obtained for the nearby settlers and it was called Lafond, after the first postmaster, Mr. Charles Barome Lafond Sr.

Odilon had his sister, Lucienne Gagné, living with him for a few years. She then married Elphège Trudel. Odilon was a bachelor once again. A young lady by the name of Bertha Noel, daughter of Louis Noel of Beauvallon, was employed at the Duvernay Hotel. They courted and were married on July 17, 1911. They raised a family of twelve children.

The ranching enterprise seemed to be successful. We read the diary that Bertha kept and which states the numbers and the prices of cattle and horses sold around home in those years. The prices could range from \$125.00 for a single horse to \$325.00 for two mares, cattle from \$38.00 to \$50.00.

During the First World War the price of grain increased, so Odilon added grain farming to stock raising and started buying more land. Among the properties bought over the years were the following quarter sections: Jim House, Desaulniers, Desjardins, Courtemanche, School section, also an 80 acre parcel in St. Paul where the present Drive-In Theatre now stands, on the east side of town. In the 1930's, such a piece of land was sold for barely \$600.00, but 30 years later with development prospects in view, it had raised to more than \$18,000.00



Mr. and Mrs. Argé Gagné, taken in 1980.



Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Jubinville family picture: taken in 1980.
Back row: André, Laurent, Marc, Victor, Front row: Norman, Diane, Colette, Donald, Muriel, Valerie, and Leonard.



Mr. and Mrs. Lionel Gagné family picture, taken in 1978.
Back row: Rita, Lorraine, Denise, Diane, Léo, Doris Thérèse. Front row: Albina, Leonard, Robert, Lionel.

Mr. Odilon Gagné passed away in 1971, only a few months short of his 100th birthday.

In 1977 a family reunion united more than 125 members of the Gagne family. The children and grand-children came mostly from different localities in Alberta and British Columbia. Another family reunion was held in the summer of 1980. Again the children, grand-children and great grand-children reminisced of the years gone by.

A survey of the family would be as follow: beginning with the oldest.

Irene Gagné married Charles Lafrance, October 28, 1937. They were farmers in St. Paul till 1962. They then moved to the town of St. Paul and lived there for seven years. In 1969 they moved to British Columbia. They had eleven children, nine of whom are living.

Guy is presently touring the world by ocean.



Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Jubinville, taken in 1980.

Mariette married Orest Snaychuk and is living in Edmonton. They have three boys.

Lionel is living in Victoria.

Leonard married Sarah Skupski, and is living in San Fransisco. They have one daughter.

Maurice, married Sharon Juba and is living in Fort McMurray. They have two children.

Claude married Patricia Becher and is living in Picardville. They have two children.

Vivian married Leo Stoof and lives in Texada Island.

Michelle is living in Fort McMurray...

Lise is living in Victoria.

Lucille Gagné married Leo Lemaire, August 2, 1945. They had three children, Raymond, Marilyn and Sylvia. Lucille passed away — August 21, 1972.

Argé Gagné married Annette Desaulniers, July 3, 1940. They lived in Lafond till 1979 when they moved to the town of St. Paul. They have kept their

home acreage, where they still like to go back to enjoy the country air.

Florence Gagné was a boarder at the convent in St. Paul for a number of years. She decided to join the order of the Sisters of Assumption on Jan. 23, 1936. She is presently working the pastoral field in the Diocese of Red Deer.

Germain Gagné married Lucy Laboucane. They have four children and live in Port Alberni, B.C.

Marie Anna Gagné married Arthur Jubinville, July 4, 1946. They lived in Lousana, Alberta, till March 1954, when they moved to Fort Kent. They had 13 children.

Diane married George Tellier. They live in Morinville. They have three boys.

Laurent (his twin lived only two days) married Pierrette Bureau. They live in Morinville and have 4 children.

Leonard married Gisèle Bureau. They live in Morinville and have 3 children.

Norman married Irene Kozak. They live in LaCorey and have two boys.

Donald lives in Morinville.

Victor married Laury Anderson. They live in Nanaimo, B.C.

Gisèle died in 1956.

Murielle married Victor Sodlowski and lives in Fort Kent.

André married Donna Faye Boile. They live in Morinville and have one child.

Marc lives in Morinville.

Valerie is attending University of Alberta in Edmonton.

Colette is attending Bonnyville High School.

Maurice Gagné married Jeannine Poirier, November 1948. They have eight children. They live in Langley, B.C.

Lionel Gagné married Albina Robinson, July 4, 1946. They lived on the original homestead of Odilon Gagné till 1972. At this time, they moved to the town of St. Paul. They have 10 children:

Denise married Laurence Ference. They live in St. Paul and have three children.

Diane married Roy Paquette. They live in Edmonton and have three girls.

Roger died in 1953.

Lorraine married Real Labrie. They live in St. Paul and have two boys.

Leo married Leona Binette. They live in St. Paul.

Doris married Dough Pelmond. They live in Blairmore.

Rita lives in Edmonton.

Therese lives in St. Paul, for the time being.

Robert and Leonard are attending school in St. Paul.

It was in September 1941, that I, Clemence Gagné, started going to school in St. Paul. I was staying at the convent. The following year Laurence



Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Lefebvre Family picture taken in 1977. Back row: Robert, Claire, Rachelle, Susan and Jean. Front row: Lillian, Fernande, Raymonde, Claudette, Louise.



Mr. and Mrs. Leon Joly taken in 1974.

and Fernande, came also. It was then, that Dad decided to move to town, so we'd be close to school. He bought Lucien Maynard's place for \$1000.00, about two acres which was in the municipality then. In October, 1943, Dad and the four

youngest, that is Clémence, Laurence, Fernande, and Marcel moved to St. Paul.

After finishing school, I worked at the Treasury Branch. Then I got married to Leon Joly, in 1949. We've raised a family of 5 children — 3 boys — 2 girls. The oldest, Camille, born in 1950, works for Alberta Power as a surveyor since 1968. In 1973, he married Isabel Grant from Clandonald and they have 3 children — Eun, Melissa and Bradley. Now they live in Vegreville.

Norman, born in 1953. At the time of his death, June 1975, was working for the Treasury Branch.

Suzanne, born in 1955 — after working a few years decided to go back to University, and get her degree as a Dental Hygienist. She's finishing in April 1981.

Gerald, born in 1956, works in Calgary at the moment.

Raymonde, born in 1959, is married to Marc Genereux. They live in Calgary, close to the mountain. Marc enjoys mountain climbing and skiing.

Once again tragedy struck on February 1980. Léon passed away quietly in his sleep from a heart attack.

Laurence Gagné joined the order of Sisters of Holy Cross, in January, 1950. She is presently working at the General Hospital in Edmonton.

Fernande Gagné married Raymond Lefebvre, in November, 1952, as written by Fernande (Gagne) Lefebvre.

We bought Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Lefebvre's dairy farm, two and one half miles from the town

of St. Paul. We kept the dairy business till 1974, when we had a fire in the barn, that destroyed our complete dairy herd. We did not go back into the dairy business. We are now grain and beef farmers. We have seven children: Jean married Susan Istace. They live in Fort Saskatchewan and have one son. Claudette, Louise, Lillian, Rachel, Robert and Claire all have employment in St. Paul.

Marcel Gagné married Ruth Ellis, March, 1971. They have four children and live in Penticton, B.C.

REMINISCENCES — GAGNÉ FAMILY

by Florence in April 1980

In any family there are happy moments that we like to recall, but also not so happy times that crowd themselves in our memories. In the following short space, I will venture to enumerate some of these moments that have made the light and dark shades of our life tapestry in Lafond, especially in the 1920's and '30's.

Good times:

— Being a large family was in itself a blessing, especially, when it came to having a good baseball game, or play in the long hay along the creek at "Home sheep run" with the René Desaulniers' kids or the Léon Robinson's.

— When a new member was added to the family it was always a special time. We would know that time had come when we saw the mid-wife come in and dad would bring us all to Aunt Alexandrine (Mrs. Hector Dupuis), and have us wait there for a day or two. These mid-wives over the years were either grand-ma Clémentine Noël, or Mrs. Laframboise, or Mrs. Jean Henley.

— Buying a new democrat was as great an event as buying a new car. And this happened in '26 app. and at the gigantic cost of \$130.00.

— A kitchen was added to the original four-room house. There was provision for an extra bedroom in this extension, but it would not stay long. Auntie Alexandrine occupied it for some time. . . . The growing family was calling for a larger kitchen and so one of the walls was taken down, leaving only a partition that we called "le corridor" . . . leading to nowhere, but being used as a vestibule and a place for a sink and refuse pails . . .

— Going bathing in Lac Santé was one good past-time for the summer holidays, of the early '30's. Walking the 1 1/2 mi., did not seem too much to wash away the sweat of a hot summer day. The brand new bathing suits, that we had, were good incentives for taking a dip . . .

— A visit from one of dad's old pals, Arthur Héppel, hailing from Transcona, Manitoba, was a good occasion for both of them to reminisce and for us to delight in hearing about one aspect of dad's life that we knew little about. It was his first visit, but he was to repeat it a few times in the years

to come. He was working for the C.N.R. so had free passes on the train.

— Another visit that was especially enjoyed around that time, was that of Mr. and Mrs. John Brunelle, from Edmonton. They had been mom's employers, when she had worked in a hotel in Edmonton, shortly after coming west with her parents in '08. This visit must have been in '26 or '27. Their daughter Irene and their niece Laurette Lessard from the States were with them.

— What can we say about the custom that was established in the early '30's, to have a dance just about every week at one family or another. The whirlwind went on for most of the winter months, when work was slack and the evenings were long. Though I did not attend the majority of them, I still attended enough to learn most of the common dances and to take a fling at the "Charleston".

— Visiting grand-father and grand-mother Louis Noël at Lake Bellevue, was one of the high-lights of our youth. Uncles Adélar and Aimé were always very ready to spoil young nephews and nieces, especially with candies from their small confectionery, or obtain our admiration from their relating their last hunt or fishing exploits. Grand-ma's half-risen home-made bread, made from locally made flour, competed favorably with mom's well-risen Robin Hood flour bread.

— The Parish's annual picnic, usually on or around St. Bernard's feast day, August 20, was another highlight of the year. The sumptuous dinner, followed by games, races, and all the colorful apparel of balloons, cupee-doll parasols etc., in a fanfare of kiosques and booths, was enough to dazzle the eyes of young people not accustomed to such fair-like displays.

Hard Times:

— One of the early painful reminiscences is the time that Argé, aged about 5 or 6, was with his younger sister Florence and they were going to their neighbor, Mrs. Eugénie Poitras, who had recently been widowed. On their way there, they came to a gopher trap that was opened and ready to snap the pest. Curiosity got the best of Argé, who put his index finger on the small metal pallet . . . and the rest you all guess. The cries and wails of both, attracted the attention of Athanase Despins, the farm-hand, who came to the rescue.

— Another of Argé's mishaps was many years later, when he tried to threaten a cow, the "barbouillée noire", with a harmless little willow-branch, and the cow turned around maliciously and charged at him. He was left there unconscious, while Florence who had been with him, ran helplessly home to tell mom. By the time we could get back to him, Argé had recovered consciousness, had gotten up and was wobbling on his way home . . .

— Another mishap that had all the family worried, was the evening that Lionel, about three years old

then, was on the stone-boat that was used to carry the 12-gal. can of milk to the house, and Argé was leading King back to the stable, when he got frightened and took a run-away. He passed through a narrow gate which caused Lionel to be tossed in the air and to fall unconscious a distance away. Argé's call as he got close to the scene was "Maman, Lionel est mort!", and this, of course, caused a general commotion . . . We all ran to him and sure enough, he seemed to be without life . . . He was brought to the house and we phoned Dr. Décosse in St. Paul. After an hour of endless waiting the doctor came, examined the small boy and found no broken bones. He assumed that he might regain consciousness before the night was over. And so he did . . . to the great satisfaction of the whole family.

— In 1931 Argé, who was then 17 yrs. old, was kicked by big "Tom" and had his leg broken at two places. This forced him to a four-month rest, in which he learned to knit, whittle and do things that he never had time to do before. He claimed it was a favorable alternative to the hard work on the farm . . .

— The spring that Maurice had scarlet fever, and that we foresaw that we could all develop that very contagious disease was a time of great worry. The great concern of disinfecting anything that could have been contaminated by contact with him, caused us to disinfect the books by putting them in the oven and raising the temperature high enough to kill the germs — sure way to get the best of the bacteria. But what we got from the experience was a series of warped books, with bindings splitting open and some just about useless. A full month of worry made us phone everyday to the hospital to see how Maurice was faring. Complications got us worried days on end, and caused us to doubt of his recovery . . . But he recovered and after a six-months' recuperating period with a strict diet he recovered completely. We surely thanked God for that.

— Among the hard times, we should mention the hardships of breaking new land. All the back-breaking jobs that include brush cutting, stump-pulling, then the burning, the actual breaking with horses, then the discing, the floating, the root picking and the rock picking, all of these were to be done before the soil was ready for seeding.

— One of the greatest set-backs that dad experienced must have been in the early '20's, when he sold over thirty head of cattle, that were paid for with a false cheque (N.S.F.). Of course this was not known for some time. The cattle had been brought to Brosseau, loaded on the ferry and then brought to Vegreville for shipping. Four steers had broken away from the group and found their way back home. All the others were completely lost. The culprit was found two years later and sentenced to

some time in jail, but this did not bring cash to dad, nor to the other needy farmers . . .

— Marie-Anna's sickness, with a ruptured appendix when she was barely 10 yrs. old, was another tense moment for the family. What joy it was, when after the ninth day, we were reassured that she would pull through . . .

— Tobogganing was fun, especially in the slopes of the two hills that separated the house and the barn, but the time that the standing Marie-Anna fell over the seated Laurence and broke her collarbone was not so much fun . . .

— Deaths left their toll in our family as in all families: Grand-ma's death in the early '30's was especially hard for mom, who felt grand-ma needed her and that it was hard for her to leave her large family. Luckily that Irene was at home and could take care of the household, as well as discipline us younger ones. She had a firm hand and just about as much authority as mom or dad . . . Then Mama's death in 1940, after a two-year illness combatting cancer, was hard on all, but especially on the younger ones. Marcel, was barely 8 years old and Fernande about 10. Marie found herself unexpectedly the head of the household and had by virtue of circumstances, to give up her schooling, which she did generously. The same year there was the accidental death of grand-father Louis Noël on the racing track in St. Paul, which was also a shock.

School Times:

— The first school in Lafond was begun in 1916 with Miss Alice Ouellette, as the first teacher. The other teachers that were hired in the years until which time the Sisters of Holy Cross came to Lafond (in 1936) were many. Some are: Eva Bourque, Yvonne Charron, Marie-Jeanne Brault (1/2 yr.), Séverin (1 yr.), François Courtemanche (4 yrs.), Simon Mury (2 yrs.). In 1929 we had a two-room school in which Simon Mury and Marie-Louise Thibodeault, replaced by Ellen Russel (later to become Mrs. Bishop) taught. Then Vianney Joly and Robert Lalonde (1 yr.), Doris and Simone Brosseau (5 yrs.), Thérèse Bélisle and Florence Brosseau (1 yr.), Florence Brosseau and Maria Mathieu (1 yr.), then Lucia Brosseau. Then the Sisters came and with them taught Clina Morin.

— For 18 years, Odilon Gagné was a school trustee. During this time other trustees that can be remembered are: Jos Lapointe, Jos Desaulniers, Lucien Desaulniers, Delphis Vaillancourt, Jos. Journault and the Secretary was Emile Malo. He was the one to supervise the Department Examinations that were written in Grades 9 and 10 at that time. The students to write these in the first years of the two-room school were: Alma Mantha, James Reimer, Edgar McCullough and two years later, Florence Gagné.

— Mostly French Canadian children attended the school. The few Ukrainian children attending, learned French. So it is that the Snaychuks, the Helinas, the Gordeys and the newly arrived family from Ireland, the Devlins, became bilingual people.

Farm hands:

— Following are some farm-hands that Odilon Gagné hired over the years. The approximate date follows the name: Hector Dupuis, the Lagassé couple, the Alphonse Poitras couple '16, Athanase Venne '19, Edouard Blanchette '21, Hector Noël '21, Philippe Blanchette '26, George Pindar '27, Joe Toth '27, John Rozic '27, Jimmy Lockhead, Tommy Blockheed '30, Alcide Foisy '29, Francis Robinson '24, André Gromyko '29, Solomon Foisy '33, Tony Shandro '27, John O'Neill and Pat O'Hara '30, Delphis Vaillancourt '31, Daniel Sauvé '32, Albert Brault '32, Laurent Brault '32, Eddie Brière '33, Léo Forcier '33, Adélar Dupuis, 2 summers '32, '33, Joe Chartrand '36, Harvey Twa '36, Frank Courtemanche '34, Mike Gordey '31, Pete Artiniuk '25, Nick Triska, Marry Wassuk in the '30's, Arthur Laberge '38.

Reminiscences:

— The hauling of grain to St. Paul became one of the major activities for the winter. This was done usually with two teams hitched to sleighs and carrying about 60 bushels each. Dad would go with one of the boys, Argé or Germain. The passing over the lakes (Bérard, Three-Mile, Thérien) could shorten the trip by a few miles. But it was still far enough to have the travellers experience frost bite on the hands or feet. During the depression winters, a hot lunch taken at Mr. John Laboucane's place was a help, before the time to return in the afternoon. Two or three trips like this a week was enough to cause the boys to miss quite a lot of school, and make it hard for them to catch up. No wonder that they lost interest in school work.

— Recalling the Municipal councillors we can remember the following names: Edmond Robinson (the first one who distributed the gopher poison, the farmers, who took upon themselves to get rid of the pest); John Krushka, Harry Taschuk, against whom Dad once ran in the early '30's, but lost; Mr. Moxam and René Desaulniers.

— Listening to the radio for the first time: Father Emile Tessier, Parish Priest, had invited the school children of the year '25 to go and listen to Prince of Wales' message that was broadcasted to all the Commonwealth. It was in the month of May, the day was nice and the radio was installed on the lawn, while everyone gathered expectingly around. The sound came, but I am sure we would have been unable to say what was being said, so unfamiliar were we with English, and especially the King's English . . . The teacher then was Mr. Courtemanche.

— A similar experience was to be repeated in '28, when King George V broadcasted a message to all his people of the Empire. Mr. Mury was teacher, then.

— In '30 no snow to stay had fallen before Christmas, therefore we remember going to Midnight Mass in the democrat and having to pick roots between Christmas and New Year's (believe it or not . . .)

SCHOOL REMEMBRANCES BETWEEN 1923 AND 1934

as reminisced by Florence Gagné

(An effort will be made to give approximate dates, however, some may fall short, even of a number of years . . .)

The teachers who taught in the Lafond School No. 3304 during those years were: Miss Marie-Jeanne Brault (1/2 yr.); Mr. Séverin Leblanc (1 yr.); Mr. François Courtemanche (4 yrs.); Mr. Simon Mury (2 yrs.). In 1929 we had a two-room school, and the second teacher was Miss Marie-Louise Thibodeault (1/2 yr.) and Miss Ellen Russel (1/2 yr.); MM. Vianney Joly, and Robert Lalonde (1 yr.); Misses Simone, and Doris Brosseau (5 yrs.).

— The school trustees as remembered during those years are: MM. Odilon Gagné, Jos Lapointe, Jos Desaulniers, Lucien Desaulniers, Delphis Vaillancourt Sr., Joseph Journault and Edouard Robinson. Mr. Emile Malo was the secretary and was the one to supervise the Departmental Examinations that were written by Grades 9 and 10 in those years. The students to write these in the first year of the two-room school were: Alma Mantha, James Reimer, Edgar McCullough and Louise Robinson. Two years later Florence Gagné would be the first to write the Grade 10 examinations, with Miss Simone Brosseau as teacher.

— 1923: January — In the eyes of a six-year old, the following older students loom large in the memory: Laurent Farley, Annie and Mary Snaychuk, Jean-Marc and Yvon Lord, Florimond and Yvette Lord, Rene and Prosper Despins, Cecilia Mantha, Eugène Jena, Louis-Paul Laframboise, also Ruth Beauregard, Yvonne Foisy, and Delphis Vaillancourt Jr.

— 1923: September: The pupils of that year most likely remember the brand new *Canadian Readers* which were replacing the *Alexandra Readers* in the schools. How many times did we go over "Tom Tinker had a dog", "Jack Spratt had a cat", "Betty Pringle had a pig", "The Little Red Hen had some chicks", also the Mother Goose stories with all the rhymes that accompanied them: "Little Miss Muffet," "Little Boy Blue", "Jack and Jill" and the long repetitious poem of "This is the House that Jack Built". We liked other poems like this one:

"There are roses
That grow on a vine
There are roses
That grow on a tree.
"But my little Rose
Grows on ten little toes
And that is the rose
For me."

The stories of "The Three Bears" and "The Billy Goat Gruff", also had their appeal.

— 1924: The *Grade 2 Canadian Reader* had also its charms with the "Morning Hymn" that we learned to sing, and other poems like "Lady Moon, Lady Moon why are you roving?", "Twenty Froggies go to School", "The Shadow", "The Land of Counterpane", "How do you like to go up in a swing?", "The Gingham Dog and the Calico Cat", "In winter I get up at night and dress by yellow candle light . . ."

— New-comers to the school were a red-letter day in the annals: 1925: Devlin family (Arthur, Jos, Nellie, Josie and later Tony and Annie); 1927: Helina Family (Jos and Steve); 1928: Reimer (James and Nancy), McCullough (Edgar and Nancy); 1929: Gordey (Bill, Mary Sadie, Lina and later Nick); at different other times: Adrienne Desaulniers from Lake Bellevue School, Gertrude and Daniel Leroux from St. Paul, Marie-Louise Robinson and Narcisse Robinson from Foisy School, also in 1931: Hansen (Mabel, Lorna . . .)

— 1925: Listening to the radio for the first time: Father Emile Tessier, Parish Priest, had invited the school children to go and listen to the Prince of Wales' message that was broadcasted to all the Commonwealth. It was in the month of May, the radio had been installed on the lawn of the rectory and everyone gathered expectantly around. The sound came, but from what I recall we did not get that much of the message . . . it being in English and of the King's English as to that . . . Mr. Courtemanche was then teacher.

— A similar experience would be repeated in '28 when King George V broadcasted a message to all his people. Mr. Mury was then teacher.

— 1926 and ff.: It was mostly French-Canadian children who attended school in those years. The other children attending learned French. So it was those families like Snaychuk, Helina, Gordey, and Devlin (coming directly from Ireland) learned to become bilingual and even tri-lingual.

— 1926 and ff.: Pupils in higher grades that I more readily remember: Marie-Anna Brault, Laurent Brault, Auréa and Alma Mantha, Alcide Foisy, George Robinson, Alphonse Malo, Harry Beauregard, Alvine Vaillancourt, Jos and Arthur Devlin, Hervé Malo, Yvonne Malo, Simone Lapointe . . .

— Pupils who were in my grade some time or other: Jeannette Journault, Lucienne and Jeanne Desaulniers, Laurette Malo, Adrien Robinson, Nel-

lie Devlin, Bill and Mary Gordey, Aline Vaillancourt, Bernadette Brault, Irène Malo, Germain Gagné, Germaine Lapointe, Annette and Noëlla Desaulniers, Noëlla and Cécile Robinson, Eva Brault, Arthur Robinson, Juliette Journault.

— Pupils who were in lower grades: Cécile Malo, Juliana Journault, Josie Devlin, Blandine and Bernard Vaillancourt, Joachim and Léo Robinson, Marie-Anne Gagné, Simone and Laurette Desaulniers . . .

— Other country schools around Lafond were: Foisy, Cartier, Chesterville, Henley and Lake Bellevue . . .

— 1928: It was during Mr. Mury's years, that we first had bought games on the school ground. We had lawn croquet for the girls and monkey bars for the boys. During Mr. Joly's year we had hard ball, as well as soccer. The winter recesses were spent playing cards, or finding places on the large map of Canada that was in front of the classroom.

— 1928: The only books that were in the library were the "Overland" soft cover books and the Lamb's popularized Classics, that we seldom read, if memory is faithful. The only ones who read these were Harry and Arthur Beauregard. They were more familiar with English than we were, as their mother was English-speaking.

— That same year, a representative from the Red Deer Home came to our school and talked to us about the Junior Red Cross as an organization to help the crippled children, at least it seemed to be its main objective to us. He wanted to organize us into a Junior Red Cross Club, but we were very reluctant to go into something that we didn't know about, so it took a certain amount of coaxing before we accepted. Finally, we elected a president. It was Alma Mantha. Florence Gagné was to be the secretary. From recollections, the club was never very active, but it was a start.

— 1929: It was during Mr. Joly's stay in Lafond that a real effort was made to have us follow the parliamentary procedure in conducting a meeting. From then on, we had a number of occasions to practice, either in French or in English.

— 1930 and ff.: It was during the Mr. Joly's and the Misses Brosseau's times, that we started competing against other schools in playing baseball. It was a special event to go to St. Laurent School in Brosseau, or have them come to our school. It was then that we developed a school spirit, which was evident in the amount of screaming we did at such rallies. We would shout to the top of our voices the cries that we had made up: 1, 2, 3, 4; 3, 3, 0, 4, Who for? What for? Who are you going to yell for? LAFOND . . . or others similar to that one . . .

— It was also during those years that we would go to the Festival in St. Paul. We would travel in the back of a truck and it is surprising that we could still sing when we arrived, because it was singing

and shouting all the way down. Our teachers proved to be very patient with us, as I don't recall their remonstrations, but remember very well their encouraging attitude to have us explore and try new things.

— Everyone recalls the year-end picnics that we had at Lac Santé or at Lac Canard. We would go wading in the water but there was no question of ever going bathing. I'm sure few of us could swim, so it wasn't too much of a risk to have 50 or 55 children go in the water without a life-guard . . .

DÉNISE GAMROTH (THÉROUX) STORY

I, Dénise Thérour, fifth child of Armand Thérour and Thérèse Bélisle, was born on November 1st., 1948 in Vegreville, Alberta. I have 2 sisters and 2 brothers, all older; Pierrette (Robinson), Maurice, Roger, and Yvette (Foster).

We left our farm in Warwick when I was 2½ years old, and moved to Lafond. I received all my schooling from grades 1-12 in the Lafond School. I was taught by many sisters and lay persons including Sister Louis, Sister Robert, Miss Demchuk, Miss Mageau, Sister Suzanne, Sister David, the 2 Sister Yvettes, Mr. Fernand Ouellette, Mr. Henri Robinson, and mom, Mrs. Thérèse Thérour.

Writing this, brings back memories of climbing in Henry Hansen's old garage, playing "kick the can" at Mailloux's, cowboys and Indians with Bartholemew's and Foisy's, skating on the slough, tobogganing on car hoods on the hill near Pierrette's with Malo's, Pigeau's and Mailloux's. Dances at Cartier Hall are also among those memories and the good times we had there. I also remember the year diphtheria struck the Polachuks; falling off Mailloux's horse and breaking my wrist; the time when Mailloux's barn burned down; all those memories and many more.



Dénise Thérour, on porch of teacherage, the family dog, Tippy. Notice slide in background in app. 1954.

In 1967, I entered the Alberta Hospital School of Nursing and graduated in 1970. While there, I met Ernie Gamroth from Galahad, who was in classes there also.



The Ernie Gamroth Family. Dénise (née Thérour) holding Danielle one year old, Paul, 8 years old, Derek, 6 years old, and Ernie.

In 1970, I was married to Ernie. We lived in Edmonton, and I continued working at Alberta Hospital. In 1972, our first born, Paul, arrived. In 1974, our second son, Derek made his debut. In 1976, we moved from Edmonton to Galahad. Ernie is a mechanic and is employed in Forestburg. I am working in the medical record department of the Galahad General Hospital. In 1979, our 3rd child, Danielle, a daughter for us and a sister for the boys was born. As all children, most of the time they are a delight, a source of great joy.

In the family picture shown, is my husband, Ernie, and myself with our 3 children now 8, 6, and 1 years old.

The picture of a little girl on the porch of the teacherage that we lived in until 1955, was me and our dog, Tippy. You will notice the "great slide" in the background, which was constructed of rough lumber and provided many hours of joy for the kids, and many hours of mending for the mothers. It was later demolished, as being too dangerous and too hard on the clothing.

CHARLES AND ALBERTINE GILL

by C.E. Cote:

In 1914 Mr. Charles Gill with his parents Mr. Joseph Gill and Marie (née Fontaine) and other children, Felix, Conrad, Rodolphe, Almanzore, Rachelle, Aurore, Armand, Lena, left Pierre Ville, Quebec to take a homestead 6 miles southwest of St. Paul.

On January 12, 1920 Charles married Albertine (née Belland) daughter of Edouard Belland and Lucie (née Mageau). Her father had come west from Isle Du Calumet, Quebec in 1913, to homestead 6 miles northwest of St. Paul.



Mr. Mrs. Onias Coté — Mr. Mrs. Jean Charles Journault, Mr. Mrs. Charles Gill, Mr. Mrs. Charles Edouard Coté, Mr. Mrs. Elie Aubin.

Mr. and Mrs. Gill lived on a farm $\frac{1}{2}$ mile southwest of St. Paul till 1946, then moved in town.

Charles worked for a few years for Northern Alberta Dairy Pool, St. Paul Curling Club as a caretaker, drove the Mail Truck to Two Hills, also has worked for St. Paul Co-op as Delivery Man. He retired in 1965.

Charles and Albertine raised 4 daughters, Marie married Elie Aubin, Cecile married Charles Edouard Coté. Helene married Jean Charles Journault, Alice married Onias Coté.

They now have 18 grandchildren and 28 great grandchildren.

Charles Gill passed away at the age of 78 on February 18, 1975. Mrs. Gill now lives at Sunny Side Manor.

THE DAYS I REMEMBER

written and composed by Mrs. Felix Gill in 1958.

This was written while Grandpa and Grandma Gill and my husband were living and this is dedicated in memory of the happy days with them.

The Happy Days I Remember

When we were young and raising our family,
We'd spend every New Year's Day
At Grandpa and Grandma's old fashioned house.
The whole family always gathered there
At Grandpa and Grandma's request,
As that was one occasion more special than the rest.

That was such a happy one when all the family
was there,

Wishing each other happiness, health,
And the best in the New Year.

The house was full of laughter and joy.
The smell of tasty food hung in the air,
The table all set up with its cloth of gleaming white.

And Grandma's dishes looked so nice and bright.

With the turkey on the platter a lovely sight to see,
All golden brown and juicy like a turkey ought to be.

There were mounds of mashed potatoes, and a dish of candied sweets.

There were salads, creamed vegetables and Grandma's tasty meat pies.

Gravy and home made pickles, jelly in Grandma's nicest bowl.

The homemade bread and pies would delight the very soul.

Grandpa, who sat at the head of the table,
Did the serving with a bold and practiced hand.
Everybody complimented that the dinner looked just grand.

When the plates were passed around we bowed
our heads in prayer,
As Grandpa asked God's blessing for everybody there.

Those two pioneers always kept their family
Close together and taught them to be good.
And always loved each other, the way a family should.

Many years have rolled along since those good old days.

Grandpa, Grandma, and my husband and son
and many more in the family,

Have quietly passed away and the family ties
have grown weaker.

Still I'm pretty sure that they are waiting for the crowd,

To come and sit beside them on that heavenly white cloud.

And when our life is ended, please God let us meet again,

So we can be a family up in heaven again.

FELIX GILL

Felix Gill was the second son of Joseph Gill and Marie Fontaine. He was fifteen years old when he arrived in St. Paul with his family. He helped his dad on the land and later worked out when the other boys were old enough to help on the farm.



Paul Emile Gill going to Doucet School 1944.



Felix Gill, daughter Theresa cutting grain in 1946.

Then in 1927 Felix decided to make a family for himself and married Odula Nolette.

They settled on a farm near his family, where he farmed and stayed till his death in 1956. They had one daughter and one son who passed away in 1969 at the age of 32. Their daughter, married Tony Devlin of Lafond, in 1948, who at the time had purchased a farm in the St. Brides district.

They raised a family of four boys and four girls. One of their sons passed away in 1975 at the age of 19. In 1976, Tony passed away at the age of 54. Felix's wife still lives in Edmonton in a Senior Citizen Home.

JOSEPH GILL

by Armand Gill

Joseph Gill was married to Marie Fontaine in his home town of Notre Dame de Pierreville, Conté of Yamaska in 1892. He lived there until he had a family of six boys and two girls. Then having heard of the west, how he could take a homestead for ten dollars and how beautiful the west was and easy to make a home there. That was when he decided to sell what he owned in the east and to move to the west to make a home for his family and become one of the pioneers of the Lafond and St. Paul district.

They arrived on the 24th, of March, 1914, in Vegreville, from which they then travelled to St.



Joseph Gill home taken 1977 before it burnt down.

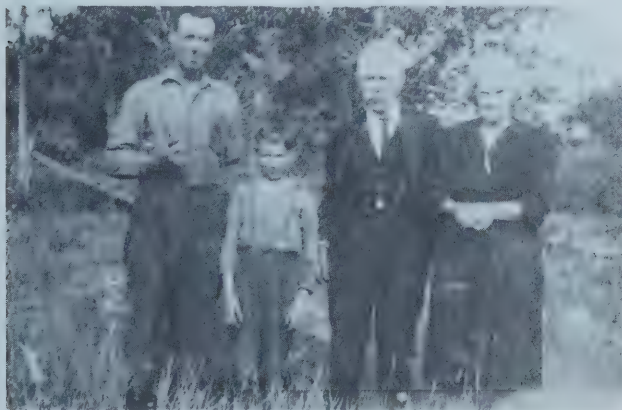
Paul by stage coach. They stayed in a hotel for a few days until they met Mr. Pepin who offered them to stay at his place until they had a nice big comfortable house built. A year later they moved into their homestead on 27-57-10-w of 4, 7 miles from Lafond. In this house Joseph and Marie had two more daughters.

Joseph, died in the year 1949 at the age of 86, leaving the farm to his youngest son, Armand, who was married to Mary Schulmiester. Marie Gill lived with her son for another year, then moved to St. Paul where she lived till her death in 1966, at the age of 93. Her son remained on the farm till 1961, when he sold out and bought the Joly farm north of St. Paul, where they still reside with their two sons.

THE JOSEPH GILL FAMILY

by the family

Mr. Joseph Gill came from Notre Dame de Pierreville, Quebec. He was married to Marie Fontaine. They came to Alberta in 1914 to homestead in the Doucet district, where they farmed for the



Felix Gill, son Paul, Joseph Gill and wife Marie - 1946.



From left to right: Conrad, Charles, Armand, Lena, Admanzar, Felix and Rodolphe. Front row: Aurore, Mrs. Marie Gill, Joseph Gill, and Rachelle.

rest of their lives. They raised a family of nine children.

Conrad married Antonia Lafrenière.

Charles married Albertine Belland.

Armand married Mary Schulmeister.

Lena married George Henley.

Admanzar married Lea Hurtibise.

Felix married Odila Nollet.

Rodolph married 1). Marie-Ange Lajoie, 2). Florence Lajoie.

Aurore married George Robinson.

Rachel married Achille Lafrenière.

VICTOR AND MARY GILL

by Stella Dochniak

Victor came from Austria, later became Poland. He came to Drumheller without his family where he was employed in a mine in 1928. His family followed in 1929 and settled on a homestead at Lac Bellevue area (homestead taken May 1st, 1929 - S.W. 31-55-9-4). Our family had some friends that lived there already. They were Tom Poloway, Korny Polowsky and Walter Sereda. The life at first was pretty hard; alot of hard work. We built build-ings, worked the land, dug wells and bought machinery. It hailed for three years in succession. We had to buy seed each year and get nothing for our expenses and efforts. We had no insurance.

People had to travel long distances to stores at St. Paul or Myrnam, a distance of about 16 - 18 miles one way. Our Post Office was about three



Victor Gill, Mary Gill.

miles away. Most of the time we used to go on horseback to pick up the mail. Roads were not that good.

There was some recreation, like dances at Alex Popowich's farm about 3 miles away, later the National Hall was built, a distance of about a mile. We held dances there, also plays and lunches and remember those functions as being alot of fun. We used to gather at Walter Seredas on some Sundays and played records. We used to enjoy those times alot more than the kids nowadays. It was just simple things, yet they were fullfilling. Sundays during summer, we used to go boating and swimming if the water was not too cold at Lac Bellevue Lake. There was also a platform by the lake (located on the southeast side of the lake) where we used to dance to 1:00 to 2:00 a.m. Then walk home about a mile. Travel was mostly by horse and buggy or



The Victor Gill Family Back L-R: Emil, Stella, Kattie, Walter, Front: Victor and Mary at the Lake Bellevue Homestead.



L-R, Walter Gulka, Victor Gill, Mary Gill, Stella Gill, Steve Gill in the 30's.

wagon drawn by a team of horses. Sometimes in someone else's car; we never owned a car in those days.

Victor married Mary Sosnowski in 1904, in Austria. They had three children: Walter, Emil and Stella.

Walter married Kay Bodnar and to this union were four children: Jerry, Adeline, Eddy and Emil. He lived at Lac Bellevue to 1946. He then moved to Myrnam for a while, later to Ponoka where he started a dairy farm and shipped milk. He then moved to Edmonton and was employed by the City of Edmonton.

Emil lived at Lac Bellevue until about 1942. He lived in Vancouver where he met and married Doris Panchuk. Then they moved to Edmonton where he worked for the city. He lives in Edmonton at the present time.

I left Lac Bellevue to Edmonton in 1942, worked in the cash office at Eatons until I married Nick Dochniak in 1950. We presently reside in Edmonton.

FRANCIS GOTTENBOS

contributed by Lyda Gottenbos:

In 1934 I, eldest daughter of John Looy's family, moved from Throne (near Coronation Alta.) to Mallaig Alta. My dad settled near Lafond.

Francis Gottenbos emigrated to Canada from Holland in 1921. He worked as a farm hand near Throne until he bought a quarter of raw prairie land in 1927. He broke it all in one year, however, with low grain prices followed by depression, drought and grasshoppers, the going was rough.

We were married in 1932 and worked hard to build up a dairy herd. Shortage of feed and continued drought, made us decide to leave, even if it meant abandoning land and buildings, in search of greener pastures. We rented land near Mallaig where we lived for four years. In 1938, we bought land and moved to St. Brides Alberta, where we raised eight children.

Wilmina married John O'Connor. They have eight children and live in Whitehorse, Yukon.



Gottenbos Family - Front row: Verna, Mr. Gottenbos, Vivian, Mrs. Gottenbos, Back row: Richard, Marie, Minnie, John, Rita, Joan.

Marie married Michael Chornohus, was widowed and remarried to Gordon Duke. They live in Wetaskiwin, Alberta. They had one adopted son.

John married Mabel Payne from Theodore Saskatchewan. They have four children and live near St. Paul, Alberta. Johanna married Arthur Fuller. They have three children and live in St. Paul, Alta. Rita married Peter McAleer. They have five children and live in Whitehorse, Yukon. Richard married Claudette Rivet. They have three children and live on a farm in St. Brides, Alberta.

Veronica married Raymond Duchesneau. They have four children and live near St. Paul, Alberta.

Vivian married Randall Rasmussen. They live in Ashmont, Alberta.

In 1955, my husband Francis purchased two school buses to transport students to St. Brides School. However, all too soon, our new school was closed in favor of centralization.

In 1972, due to health reasons, we decided to retire. We sold the farm and school buses and moved to St. Paul where Francis passed away in 1977 after a long illness.

DENIS SIMON GOUIN

by Denis Gouin

I was born to Justine (Gagné) and Evariste Gouin, Oct. 13th, 1945 at Edmonton General Hospital. My mother passed away three months later in January, 1946. Then I was taken care of by Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Malo of Lafond till I was 8 years old. My father was remarried to Angeline Bouchard (Mrs. Paul Gagné) who as my stepmother, took good care of me.

I started school in Lafond and went up to grade 7, then to College St. Jean in Edmonton, from 1960 to 1963. Having trouble to keep my mind on books, I then returned to Lafond High School. On terminating part of my High School, I then entered this great competitive world of ours.



A Gingerbread House, representing many hours of labor by Denis Gouin, prepared for a Christmas Banquet in Fort McMurray in 1978.



Denis Gouin, #4 in the foreground at Woodline Race Track, Toronto in 1966.

I started earning my first pay cheques, like so many young men in our area did, by working at the Two Hills Chemical Plant. After a while, my feet got itchy to move on and it wasn't from Athlete's foot. I wanted action, so I packed and headed for Calgary, without knowing anybody. I always liked horses and since my slight size fitted the job, I went on to become a jockey from Oct. 1965 to spring 1968.

I travelled through Canada and into many parts of the United States, ending up at turf Paradis in Phoenix, Arizona where weight problems caught up with me. I returned to St. Paul, Alberta, for a year or so and worked at various jobs. As St. Paul did not offer much advancement in any trade, I then went to Edmonton, where I worked for Imperial Oil and moonlighted at various jobs.

I decided to go where the challenge was. I took a course in Cooking and Culinary Arts and went to work across Alberta and Saskatchewan for Companies catering to Industrial Projects. One example



Part of a Christmas Banquet at Syncrude Fort McMurray, Alberta, prepared by Denis Gouin and crew for the Construction Crew in 1968.



Three teachers and the Grade 9 students at St. John's College Edmonton, Alberta in 1961. Denis Gouin, second from right hand side of first row.



Denis Gouin, standing beside a sculpture of the Statue of Liberty prepared for a Christmas Banquet in Northern Saskatchewan in 1980.

is Syncrude of Canada, in Fort McMurray and the coming project near Cold Lake. I had the pleasure of catering at banquets given for such as Robert Stanfield, Mr. Lewis, the Energy Minister of Japan and also Premier Blackeney of Saskatchewan and our federal Minister of Energy, Mr. Marc Lalonde.

I now acquired my father's farm, as well as a residence in the hamlet of Lafond, which I really appreciate as a fine little home, where I can rest when I am not working or travelling.

EVARISTE GOUIN

by E. Gouin:

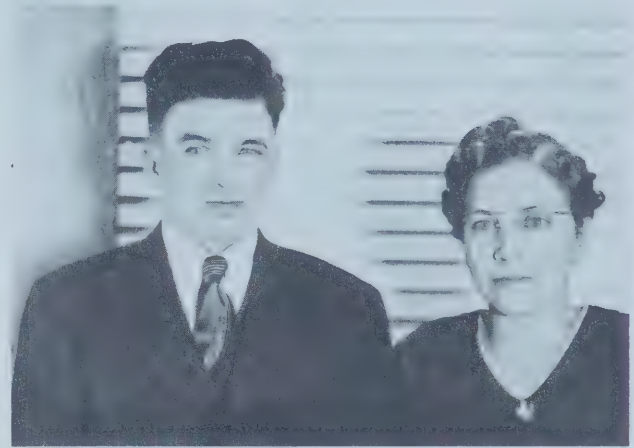
Evariste Gouin, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Alexandre Gouin, was born on December 27, 1901, at St. Felix of Kinsey, P.Q. He attended the village school until the age of twelve. After his father's death in 1913, he went to the "Collège des Frères de St Croix" in Montreal, for the next four years. Illness at Easter of 1918, caused him to discontinue his studies.

In July of 1918, he came out west and lived with his uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Lafond, helping with the land clearing and the farming in general. In 1919, he bought a half section, across the road, south of his uncle's homestead. He had a big house and a barn built in 1939-40 by Michel Laframboise. After his uncle's death in 1940, his aunt moved to his new home.

After building his house and barn, Evariste began thinking of getting married. He had kept in touch with his childhood sweetheart, Miss Justine Gagné. In 1942, he asked her to come out to see the country. She liked it well enough and soon they

were married. They left immediately for a honeymoon in the east. They lived there for a year, at Justine's parent's home. They then decided to come back to Lafond. Justine's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Arsene Gagné, also came out and lived with the young couple.

On October 13, 1945, a son, Denis, was born to Evariste and Justine. All was well until January 19, 1946, when Justine passed away from a heart attack, leaving a 3-month-old baby. Justine's parents stayed for another year. In the meantime,



Wedding Picture of Evariste Gouin and Justine Gagné, March 21, 1942.

hired girls came to work for short periods of time. Finally Evariste hired a neighbor, Mrs. Pierre Brault, who worked for him for two years. When she and her husband moved to St. Paul, he asked



A Family Reunion — Evariste Gouin, his mother, Mrs. Alex Gouin and Evariste's brother, Elphege, a student at the Seminary of Quebec in 1928.



Mr. and Mrs. Evariste Gouin. For both a second marriage, Feb. 16, 1953.

Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Malo to take Denis, now 3 years old, as a boarder.

On Feb. 16, 1953, Evariste was remarried to Mrs. Paul Gagné, nee Bouchard, and Denis came home. That same year, on March 21, a fire during the night completely destroyed Evariste's dairy barn, along with the stock in it; eleven milk cows, a bull and several calves. This was a great loss but Evariste's courage was greater. He deliberated between building a new barn or moving one available in the neighborhood. Oscar Malo assured him it could be moved. Evariste then bought the barn, owned by Ben Marsh, and situated on a piece of land where no one lived, approximately two miles away. Oscar Malo organized the whole thing. He got nine men with their tractors; himself Oscar Malo, his son André, Réal Lavoie, Aimé and Julien Foisy, George Robinson, Ovila Jean, Argé Gagné, and Lionel Gagné. Hervé Malo was there with a team to haul the jacks, chains, etc. Francis Robin-

son, Mike Slefenderfas, Napoleon Tremblay and Louis-Paul Laframboise did odd jobs around. As good neighbors, there was no charge for this fine work. This was completed on approximately April 15, 1953. Evariste bought more cows and continued milking, raising hogs and farming his half section.



Denis Gouin, Mrs. Oscar Malo, Bernard Malo, in app. 1950 or 51.



This is the group of tractors that moved the barn Evariste Gouin bought from Ben Marsh after his had been destroyed by fire, March 21, 1953. The barn was moved by a group of neighbors, organized in a "bee" by Oscar Malo.

In 1960, he rented his land, sold his machinery but kept milking cows and feeding pigs.

In 1973, he sold his livestock, but continued to enjoy his home and the fine country air. He is still there in 1981 and plans on remaining there as long as possible.

His son Denis, a chef by trade, has his home in the hamlet of Lafond, where he spends his holidays and days off from his job.

Denis spent a couple of years working as a jockey, where his slight build was a real asset.

JOHN GORASH FAMILY

by: Mrs. Jean Thoben

John Gorash arrived in Canada in 1911, from The Ukraine. He made his way to Edmonton, Alberta, where he worked on the railroads until he earned enough money to bring his wife, Irene and their one daughter, Jean, who was 11 years old at the time, from the Ukraine, in July of 1923.

In March 1924, John bought a $\frac{1}{4}$ section farm in the Lac Bellevue district. The same year the Gorash's were blessed with a second daughter Mary. The Gorash's farmed together for twenty years.

In 1932, Jean married Gerhard Thoben, and started homesteading in the Lac Canard district, with a half section of land.

In 1944, Mary married John Kucher, from the Wostock district, and they continued to farm with John and Irene Gorash. In 1945, the Kuchers had a son, Raymond.

In 1953, the Gorashes decided to retire. The Gorashes and Kuchers left the farm and moved to Edmonton, where Kuchers bought a home. John and Irene spent many happy years in Edmonton. Irene Gorash passed away in 1954, and her husband John was laid to rest in 1960. Mary and John Kucher are still working and residing in Edmonton, Alberta. Their son Raymond is also living in Edmonton, with his wife Bonnie and two children.



Mr. and Mrs. Gorash 1929.

THE GREGORASCHUK - TODOSI (TONY AND ELIZABETH (NÉE ZAWADIUK)

by their son Isidore (Sid) Gregoraschuk:

Todosi (known as Tony) Gregoraschuk, was born in the Ukraine in 1890. In 1910 he emigrated to Canada alone, leaving his parents in Europe. After arriving in Canada at Sudbury, Ontario, his first job was as a railway section hand. In 1912, he came west and after a few odd jobs, located steady work at the Hillcrest Coal Mine in southwestern Alberta. Tony was still working there when in June of 1914, an explosion, considered to be Canada's worst mine disaster, ripped through the mine, killing 189 men. He was one of the few survivors.

All the while he was in Canada, Tony corresponded with his parents in Europe and was instrumental in their decision to also emigrate to this country.

Phillip and Sanny Gregoraschuk (Tony's parents) arrived in Canada in 1914, shortly after the mine explosion. Tony assisted them in settling on a homestead, a few miles north of Lac Bellevue. He spent a short time with them, but then returned to southern Alberta and got a job, through an acquaintance, at a steel mill at Red Cliff. He worked there until he was drafted into the army in 1916.

He was stationed in Calgary for the duration of the war and did not see active duty in Europe. After his discharge, he returned to Red Cliff and worked at the steel mill again, for a short while, before returning to Lac Bellevue to help work the homestead. It was during this last period of time, that he spent on his parent's homestead, that he met Elizabeth Zawadiuk, and as stated later in this article, they were married in October of 1919.

Elizabeth Zawadiuk was born in the Ukraine in 1903 and in 1909, emigrated to Argentina with her parents, Onofry and Rose, two brothers and two sisters. The farming venture there failed, and after five years the Zawadiuk family moved again, this time, Canada was their destination. After a seven-week journey by land and sea, they arrived at Mundare, Alberta in May of 1914.

The first few days were spent with the Simon Ewaniuk family on a farm near this community, while the father (Onofry) searched for a place on which they could settle. He located a vacant homestead bordering the Lessard Creek, approximately five miles south and two miles east of Lafond. They had no means of transportation, so Mr. Ewaniuk transported the whole family along with their few belongings to this spot in the wilderness which was to be their new home. The only structure on the place was a small barn which they cleaned up and made as comfortable as possible.

The first days here were very busy ones. A garden spot was spaded by hand, and benches and a table were built from discarded boards and slabs, carried by hand from an abandoned saw mill site

which was located about a mile away, near the North Saskatchewan River. The roof of this tiny building was covered only with branches and straw and Elizabeth recalls that during a rain storm, they all took shelter under the kitchen table, being protected from the dripping water by the oilcloth table cover. Everything got wet and it dripped for hours after the storm had passed.

Lacking any means of transportation, the only way of getting around was on foot. A few days after they arrived, Onofry had to walk to Lafond for some flour and other basic needs. It was on this first trek to Lafond that he was fortunate in meeting Harry Ewaniuk and his wife, who had settled on a homestead, like him about five miles to the north west. This good natured fellow offered to sell Onofry a good milk cow for a reasonable price, which Onofry accepted most gratefully. As it turned out, this animal was to supply them with their basic food needs for many months.

An outside oven was built by using a mixture of mud and grass, and plastering it on a framework of green sticks, bent into the shape of a dome about six feet long and three to four feet high. A few flat stones formed the floor. (Some of these ovens are still seen in parts of rural Alberta). Luckily Onofry had not disposed of his shotgun and he was able to supply meat by bagging a rabbit, grouse, or prairie chicken which were to be found in abundance.

Within a very short period of time, it was discovered that the land there could not yield a crop because it was mostly sand, gravel and rocks. Onofry was off again in search of a more suitable location. The parcel of land he chose this time was near the west shore of Lac Bellevue, approximately three miles distance. (By coincidence not very far from where Philip and Sanny Gregoraschuk had settled.) This was virgin land with an abundant supply of timber which could be used for building, and he started to build a house immediately.

Still lacking any means of transportation, he walked to the site each morning and back again each evening. When the walls were about three feet high, the family picked up their meagre belongings and moved to their new home in order that Onofry needn't make that walk twice daily and to assist him in any way possible. Each evening a corner of the structure was covered with branches to form a makeshift roof. Grass was placed on the ground for a mattress and the whole family huddled and slept there. Next morning the branches were removed and work continued on the walls. All cooking, washing etc., was done out doors. If it rained, everything and everybody got wet. Although the timber was near at hand it was none the less slow and hard work as all the logs had to be cut, shaped and moved by hand. After days of back breaking labor, the rafters were finally erected. The roof was completed (thatched) by fastening

small hand tied bundles of long slough grass in overlapping rows, starting at the lowest edge of the roof, using the same principle as our present day shingling. The ceiling, walls and floor were plastered with a mixture of mud and grass. The floor was packed hard to withstand the wear and tear of foot traffic. At a later date, after thorough drying, the walls and ceiling were white-washed.

Elizabeth was now eleven years of age and as there were no schools near by, arrangements were made for her to stay with a family in the Brosseau area so that she could go to school. In exchange for some light housework, she was to be clothed, allowed to attend school on a regular basis and be paid a salary of three dollars per month. But she was denied the opportunity of attending school as promised and the light housework turned out to be duties more suited for an adult, which commenced early each morning and lasted until late each evening. A hard bed and poor covers were also part of her remuneration. She would have left and returned home, except for the fear of getting lost.

Approximately eighteen months lapsed before her parents learned of her plight. Because of this unfortunate chain of events and the difficult circumstances, Elizabeth never did attend school.

The next few years were difficult ones for the Zawadiuks, but they all worked hard on the land and also took on any outside jobs that they could handle, pooling all their earnings.

One such job Elizabeth recalls that she and her brother Tom did was the harvesting of fifteen acres of wheat for one of the neighbors, totally by hand, for the sum of one dollar per acre. Neither was over fourteen years old at the time.

Each fall after harvest, Onofry would get a winter job, usually with the C.N.R. as an extra gang laborer. When Tom was sixteen he also got a job with the C.N.R. He worked his way up to section foreman and remained with the C.N. until his retirement. On several occasions during the absence of her father, Elizabeth remembers helping her mother and sisters grind wheat into flour with a small hand mill made of two flat stones. It was during these last few years on the homestead that the chain of events led to Elizabeth and Tony Gregoraschuk meeting. They were married in October of 1919 and went to live with Tony's parents, several miles away.

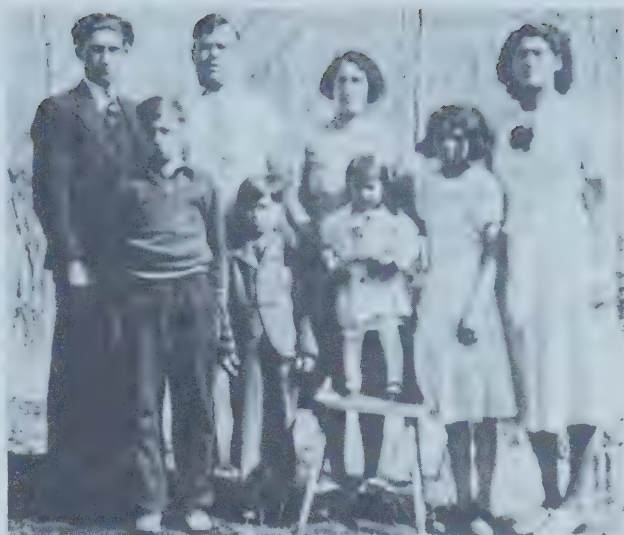
The winter of 1919 - 1920 was a real test for the newlyweds. The crops had been poor the previous summer and not much feed was available. The winter was extremely harsh with the temperature dropping to approximately minus forty degrees fahrenheit, and remaining there for weeks at a time. The snow piled up to such depths that two teams of horses had difficulty passing each other. On the prairie, horses died of starvation while for-

aging for grass which they were barely able to uncover due to the snow. In spite of these conditions, Tony and Elizabeth's brother Tom, hauled straw for their few head of stock from Shandro Alberta, a distance of about forty-five miles. These trips took an average of four days to complete and on many occasions the previous load of straw was all gone by the time they returned with another load. The situation became so critical by the spring of 1920, that many farmers ripped the thatched roofs off the buildings to feed their stock. Some even cut young saplings and brought them to the barn yard. The hungry animals ate the small branches. In spite of these valiant efforts, many animals died of starvation.

There were several additions to the Gregoraschuk family over the next few years which prompted Tony and Elizabeth to get a place of their own. Also, the situation of living with Tony's parents was getting a little difficult. Tony located a farm six and one half miles south of Lafond, bordering the North Saskatchewan River. This was bought from the St. Paul Municipality for the sum of four hundred dollars, with a small down payment. The land was hilly and virtually covered with bush, but the soil was fertile. There were eleven acres of land plowed, and a small barn, but there was no house and no fences. A log building was obtained somewhere, hauled in and assembled in a hurry. They moved into their own home in April of 1925. The Bill Popowich family were the nearest neighbors, about one and one half miles away. Other immediate neighbors were the John (Jack) Chesters, the Harry Ewasiuks and the Sefroi Labrecques located from two and one half to four miles away.

That spring the crop was sown by hand because they didn't own a seed drill. During the summer, some fences were erected and a bit more land was cleared and plowed. Plowing was done with horses and a hand controlled walking plow, which meant a lot of back breaking work. At harvest time, Tony adapted a sack stretched behind the hay mower cutter bar, which acted as a catcher. As the grain was cut it would fall on the sack and was collected in this manner, rather than having to pick it up from the ground. It was then removed from the sack, hand tied and stooked. After drying it was hauled into large stacks, ready for threshing machine that lacked a lot of the modern attachments but did the job none the less. The twine on each bundle had to be cut by hand. The straw dropped on the ground and had to be removed by hand also, because there was no blower.

George and Stella were soon of school age and were enrolled at the Chesterville school, in a one room building with a big cast iron heater, which, on cold winter days became red-hot. In spite of it being their first year, they walked the two and one half miles along a path through the bush. Each morning Tony or Elizabeth walked with them to



Gregoraschuk Family taken 1938 or 1939 — Back row: George, Tony, Elizabeth, Stella Front row: Tommy, Isidore, Angel (Baby), Jean.

the high ridge (the banks as we referred to it) which was a distance of almost one mile. They were able to return home each evening on their own. It wasn't until they were a bit older that they were able to ride to school on horseback.

As previously stated the location of this farm was fairly remote and a trip to St. Paul, a distance of twenty-two miles, or any other town was seldom made. Roads were mostly bush trails and a horse drawn wagon or sleigh is a slow means of transportation. A yearly trip though, was one to the flour mill at Mundare, a distance of about sixty miles. This trip was usually made soon after threshing and would take Tony about a week to complete. The first few years Tony borrowed a solid wagon for this trip, for fear that the old rickety one he owned, would collapse somewhere many miles from home.

The dirty thirties arrived and the situation seemed almost hopeless. Wheat sold for eighty cents a bushel and oats for five cents. Market hogs brought two dollars and fifty cents to three dollars and a top grade one thousand pound young steer sold for ten dollars. A herd of fourteen prime stock herded to the stock yard in St. Paul netted the Gregoraschuks one hundred and thirty dollars. Many farmers that had begun to prosper a little were forced to abandon their cars because they couldn't afford to buy gasoline. Some removed the motor and converted them into horse-drawn vehicles, which gave birth to the Bennett Buggy. The poor farmer just managed to survive or got farther into debt. Like most other poor families, life for the Gregoraschuks was a struggle. Tony supplemented the small farm income by selling a few loads of wood at Brosseau or Two Hills and by trapping rabbits and coyotes, and selling the pelts each winter.

Elizabeth sewed a lot of the family clothing and knitted woolen mitts and stockings as well. She even managed to knit a few extra pairs for sale.

Though most of the farmers in the area were poor and worked hard, they did find some time for entertainment. Several couples would gather and have a friendly game of cards or just plain visit. If there was a fiddle or accordion available, and some one in the group that could play it, a few dances may be had. Regular dances or bazaars were attended on occasion and there were picnics and outdoor rodeos in summer. The yearly Christmas concert was a big attraction and in addition to the parents, was attended by people from neighboring areas, who crowded into the small schools or (in later years) the local hall to watch the performance. Though rehearsed for weeks, some of the young actors got stage fright and forgot their lines and had to be coached from stage side by the teacher. None the less, a most enjoyable evening was had by all. The Chesterville School didn't have a rear door and poor old Santa had to crawl in through a window in back of the stage curtains before he made his grand entrance.

By 1937 the last three members of the family had arrived. Jean, 1926, Isidore (Sid) 1932, and Angel 1937. All six of the children were born at home with either Tony's help or the help of a midwife. When Angel was born, her oldest sister Stella attended. The first three children were born at Lac Bellevue and the last three at Lafond.

Although there was a constant shortage of money, food, though not extravagant, was plentiful. A large garden was planted each spring and the fertile soil produced beautiful vegetables. Many jars of vegetables and wild berries were preserved each fall, along with a barrel of dill pickles and another of sauerkraut. Meat was readily available from a choice of farm stock or game birds, and for sure each winter there was venison. "Old Tony" as he was affectionately called by many of his friends, was known for his hunting abilities and considered to be one of the best hunters in the area. Given the opportunity, he also took great pleasure in relating his hunting experiences to his family or friends. Tommy Clark and he rarely would come home empty handed. It was on one of these trips that Tommy ended up hanging on for "deer life" so to speak. This particular morning Tony and Tommy struck out on horseback and after some tracking, located this herd of deer. Unfortunately, one of the animals was only wounded and got away with the others. Tommy jumped on his horse and took after them in hot pursuit, while Tony was to attempt to head them off. Within moments Tony heard the sound of barbed wire "screeching". He was sure that Tommy had run his horse into a barbed wire fence, but almost immediately he also heard Tommy hollering for help. Upon arriving at the scene,

he found Tommy holding on to his deer by the horns and the both of them threshing around in a cloud of snow. All the while, Tommy was hollering for all he was worth. Tony stepped in and helped to subdue the animal without further incident.

Apparently the deer had received a broken leg when shot at and in attempting to jump the fence, caught the leg on the top strand of wire, fell and became entangled. Tommy, following close behind came upon the animal laying there and instead of shooting again was going to finish the job with his knife. But it wasn't that easy though, and while wrestling with the deer, he dropped his knife in the snow. The only thing he could think of at the moment was to hang on and shout, hoping that Tony would hear him. It isn't known whether Tommy found his knife.

When World War Two started in 1939, many of the able-bodied young men joined the armed forces. George, the oldest son, joined the air-force and served until his discharge in 1945, including several years of active duty in Europe. Tommy (second son) reported a few years later, but was not accepted due to a serious shoulder fracture he received while in his early teens. He stayed at home and helped operate the farm. It was through his efforts that the first tractor, a 22-36 McCormick was purchased. As time passed, more and better equipment was obtained and by the early 1950's the farm was basically self operational.

Although the family roots were on the farm and all enjoyed farm life, unfortunately none of the sons made farming their career. As each one married, they settled into other walks of life. The girls were not expected to stay, and by coincidence more of them married farm boys. The present day Gregoraschuks, make their homes across the three western provinces, each caught up in the rat race of city life.

From the mid-fifties, the farm became basically a week-end operation although Tony and Elizabeth still lived there. Tony passed away in 1958 after a brief illness. He was sixty eight years of age. After Tony's death Elizabeth moved to St. Paul, where she still resides. The farm was rented out for a few years and was later sold to the Provincial Government. It forms a part of the St. Paul grazing reserve and the only contact with it now, is an occasional hunting trip.

THE HALINA FAMILY

by Russell Paziuk

The pioneering family, Halina, emigrated to Canada with their four sons; Dan, Steve, John, and Bill about the year 1911. Their first stop in Western Canada was the Calgary region, where they stayed briefly. In October of 1913, the family arrived in the

Lac Bellevue district where they filed for homesteads. The township "general register" reveals that the N.E. 12-56-9-4, was registered to Stefou Halina, N.E. 12-56-9-4, by Lewko Halina, and the S.W. 12-56-9-4 was registered to John Halina. Later, in May of 1924, we find that the N.E. 10-56-9-4 was registered to Louis Halina. Daniel Halina registered another quarter section (N.E. 1-56-9-4) in March of 1930.

Gido Lewko Halina passed away in the early 20's, and Baba Yulia Halina passed away in 1919.

Interviews with residents of the Lac Bellevue community strongly suggest the Halina family's involvement with community and civic matters. Their involvement in the building and operation of the Lac Canard and the Henley School and the Lac Bellevue Hall, is talked about to this day. The youngest of the Halina boys, Bill, was in his day a councillor of the M.D. of Laurier, local school secretary, secretary of the M.D. of Two Hills, alderman, mayor, as well as a business man. Recreation and entertainment in the local community in the 20's was organized by the talented Bill Halina.

Dan, the eldest Halina son, emigrated to Canada as a married man. To the Dan Halina family were born six boys and four girls. In order of age they were; Louis, who married Ann Rawluk, Mary, who married Walter Kitiuk, Emma, who married Wm. Sydoruk, Annie, who married Steve Danyluk, Bill, John, Steve, who married Ann Polowy, Joe, Walter, and Margarette who married Mr. Romaniuk.

Dan passed away in July, 1945, and his wife Paronka passed away Dec. 30, 1939.

Steve, the second oldest son of Lewko, did not spend much time in the Lac Bellevue area. We are told that he moved to Saskatchewan and became a railroad man.

John lived in Lac Bellevue for a short time and worked in the neighborhood during those early years. His family later settled in the Ranfurly area. John's family later moved to Edmonton.

Wm. Halina's history is vast as indicated earlier. We are submitting an article written after his passing, courtesy "The Ukrainian Canadian", a paper this man was very proud of.

WILLIAM HALINA



On November 1, 1980, William Halina died in Vernon, B.C., at the age of 77 years.

Born April 25, 1903, in the Ukrainian village of Koniushkiv, Brodiv District, Lviv Region, he came to Canada in 1912 at the age of nine with

his family which settled at Lac Bellevue, Alberta. He married Anne Snaychuk in 1924. From early in his life William Halina worked on behalf of people, serving on the local school board and on the Municipal District Council of Laurier and helping to build the Ukrainian Farmers Temple in Lac Bellevue.

In 1928, the Halina family moved to Myram where he helped to organize a choir and orchestra, and co-op, and served on the district school board of Two Hills. From 1936-37 he was provincial secretary of the ULFTA in Alberta.

In 1948, the Halina family moved to Vernon, B.C., where he served the Ukrainian

progressive movement as a member of the AUUC Provincial Committee in British Columbia and as a member of the National Committee of the AUUC. In 1966 William Halina was first elected alderman in Vernon. He served four years as mayor, contributing considerably to his municipality. After leaving municipal politics William Halina continued to be active by helping build Vernon's Senior Citizens Centre, which has been named in his honour.

Our deepest sympathy goes to his wife, son Edward, daughters Margaret, Eva and Dianna, eleven grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

HENRY HANSEN

as told by himself to Denise Gamroth (née Theroux)

I, Henry Hansen, was born in Perley, Minnesota on February 16, 1895. I came to Pleasington, Alberta on March 12, 1912. I served in the first World War for three years. Then I met Carrie, daughter of Ben York. After a short courtship, we were married in Lafond, September 3, 1919.

I farmed north of Forestburg from 1916 to 1934. Then we moved to Lafond and lived there, where



Henry Hansen in 1940.

Pierre Brault now lives, for 20 years. Mr. York, Mrs. Hansen's father, lived alone in a little shack, close to his daughter's house. I farmed and also had a garage in Lafond, in the old Rouillard Store, for a few years.

In the early 50's, I remember there was an early winter and lots of snow. I didn't get any threshing done that fall. The spring came early and I remember it got dry, and the neighbours all pitched in and with two machines, did all my threshing for me. All they'd take was gas for the machines, no wages. I'll always remember this great neighborly



Henry Hansen Family in 1945. Back row: Helen and Lorna. Front row: Evelyn, Doris, Carrie (mother) Mable, Henry (father), little Alan standing in front of Mable.

act of the people of Lafond, my good friends and neighbors. Then I took my grain in. The elevators were all full, and finally one said he'd take a load and grade it. He wouldn't take it then, so I went to others. The last elevator was loading a car of damp grain, testing 26%, and although he said he was full, he'd take mine because mine was nice and dry. I helped him load the car, so he could take my grain. I hauled in 1700 bushels of wheat, from the crop that my neighbors helped me take off. I often think of this and am grateful to these fine, kind people of Lafond.

In 1954, we moved to Donalda and lived there until 1965, when we moved to Forestburg. My wife, Carrie passed away in 1972 and I have been since then, living alone in my own home, enjoying my retirement. I am thankful that my health is still relatively good, considering my age.

Our family consists of five girls and one boy: Evelyn, Doris, Helen, Lorna, Mable and Alan.

Evelyn married Robert Sawyer of Seattle, U.S.A. They have 2 boys, Ronald and Darrel who are both single. They live in Seattle working for Boeing.

Helen married Willis "Bud" Moore of Rimbey, Alberta. They have six children: James, June, Margaret, Lorne, Dale and Janet.

Lorna married Arnold "Butch" Boettcher of Edmonton. They have four sons: Dicky, Derry, Douglas and Donald.

Mabel married Bill Holinski of Edmonton. Mabel is now divorced and goes by Hansen. She has four children: Robert, David, Bruce and Jeff.

Doris married Alexander Leham of St. Albert. They have five children: Eviola, Rhonda, Debbie, Robert and Joey.

Alan married Janet — from Sherwood Park. They have three children: Wayne, Sean and Nadine.

ALEX HARASYM

by Mary Skakun

My parents, Katie and Peter Harasym came from Operiwicki, province of Bukowina, Austria, near the capital city of Chernavatz. They left their home in the old country and came to Canada in 1904, with a son, Peter who was 2 years old, Grandmother Dora and stepfather, John Pundick. They boarded a ship in Hamburg, Germany and sailed for 11 days before reaching Halifax. Ron Mandryk met them in Edmonton and brought them to their homestead (N.E. 20-55-11-Wr) near South Bend (now called Duvernay).

At this time, there were 3 homesteads that owned horses, my father, Pete Harasym, Nick Orlecki and Ron Mandryk. My father bought a team of horses from a man in Fort Saskatchewan and named them Nellie and Clappie. He made 12 trips with them to Edmonton in 1904 and 1905. The men from the 3 homesteads brought flour, salt and other drygoods for the settlers from Edmonton; a distance of 110 miles.



Henry Kostiniuk Family: L. to R.: Wendy, Maureen, Marlene, Barbara. Seated: Granddaughter Paige; Olga; Henry; 25th wedding anniversary.



Picture taken in 1954. Family of Alex Harasym celebrating his 38th birthday. Picture taken on Harasym homestead.

The first house on our land was built with a straw roof which when being remodelled in 1909, caught fire because of a carelessly thrown cigarette. Indians camped close by, helped to extinguish the fire by throwing snow on it.

The church, Luzan Toperiwicki and the Luzan School were built in 1911 and finally completed in 1912. Mr. Arthur Roberge and Elzear Moisin were the carpenters. Mr. Gasowatsi, a cabinet builder, artistically finished the interior.

It was difficult to find teachers that were qualified to teach and sometimes the problem was that the people could not afford to pay to keep a teacher.

My father, Peter, died in June, 1927. Mother, Katie, died January of 1942. Peter Jr. died May of 1975. Mike died December of 1974. Dora died March of 1944. Alex died January 9th, 1954.

Olga, born December 24th, 1936, married Henry Kostyniuk, January 12, 1955 in St. Paul. They have five children. Wendy was born May 12th, 1956 and married Bryan Setter July 29th, 1977. They have one very active son, Mackenzie Harold born on October 11th, 1978. Maureen and Marlene born February 2nd, 1961 are twins with very different personalities. Barbara, born April 20th, 1962 came into the world fourteen months after the twins, but had to grow up fast or take the back seat all the time. Lydon, born February 4th, 1965 is the only son, looks maybe like his grandfather Harasym, but likes to fish and hunt, which the latter did not like to do. Last, but not least, there is a granddaughter, Paige Lee-Ann, born November 13th, 1976.

I work at the Eagleview Nursing Home in Two Hills. Henry, son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Kostyniuk of St. Paul, a family of Lac Bellevue, is employed by Western Truck Box. Before he worked for 27 years at Western Chemicals, until the plant dissolved. Henry is an avid fisherman and hunter. He can tell some tall tales about the ones that got away.

Johnny married Natalie Pundick; one beautiful daughter was born to them; Laurie May. Johnny was born January 18th, 1939, died December 24th, 1975. Johnny left home when he was fifteen to make a life and home for himself in Edmonton. He worked with his Uncle Bill Orlecki (the former Miss Mary Harasym, sister of Alex was married to Bill, he was fondly called "Chief" by the younger generations in the family.) Before his death, Johnny worked for C.N.R.



Harasym Family 1955. Top row: Norman; Johnny; Front row: Mother with Willie; Gloria; Noreen and Fern.

Norman, born March 7th, 1942, married Lillian Yurko (daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mike Yurko of Hairy Hill.) Norman is a meat cutter by trade and his wife is a pharmacist. They have two children, Dean and Naomi. Norman is also a great fisherman and lately has been very lucky at hunting big game. Henry and he, then compare notes on the ones that got away.

Noreen, born September 18th, 1945 (the first family allowance cheque came just before she was born.) Noreen married Ron Brookes and, they have two boys, Bradford and Lyle. Ron Brookes is the son of the late Gordon Brookes of Luzan, across the river. Ron is employed by Xerox, and Noreen is a bookkeeper for a mining company in Tungsten, N.W.T. Noreen likes to travel and just this last year was in the Fiji Islands.

Fern, born May 8th, 1950 married Dennis Garneau and they make their home four miles north of St. Paul on a farm. They have two children, Faye and Gerret. Dennis raises Charolais cattle; Fern works at Sales and Service in St. Paul.

Gloria, born September 19th, 1953 married Daniel Gordon, a boy she met when the family lived in Fort McMurray. They now live in North Vancouver, B.C. Dan is going to the University of British Columbia and Gloria has decided to further her education by going to a college for business administration.

William, born August 14th, 1955, married Monique Gingras, a girl from Cluny, Alberta. They have a son Nathan, born October 6th, 1977. Willy, as he is affectionately called, works in Fort McMurray as a pipefitter and Monique works as a bookkeeper. Willy sometimes has some encounters with bears.

ALEX AND JOSIE HARMATIUK

by Josie Harmatiuk

Alex Harmatiuk, youngest son of Dan and Anne, was born and raised in the Lac Bellevue, Alberta district. He attended the Lac Bellevue school and quit at an early age to help his father on the farm. I, (Josie) was born in Poland on February 14th, 1927. I came to Canada with my parents John and Maria Malek on May 18th, 1927. I grew up in the Lac Canard area and attended school by the same name. During my years at school, two teachers stand out in my memory and they are Mary Pawlyk, now Mrs. Mary (Peter) Gadowski and Rose Slevinsky, now Mrs. Rose (John) Bagan. I, like Alex, had to leave school at an early age to help my father on the farm.

Alex and I were married on October 9th, 1945 at Vegreville, Alberta and in the spring of 1946, we started farming on the S.E. 26-56-9 quarter of land. Later we purchased the N.W. 28-56-9 quarter from Nick Prysunka, and in 1962, we bought the S.W.



Alex and Josie Harmatiuk Family, Aug. 11, 1979. L-R: Standing, Dean, Dale, Dolores, Alexander. Sitting, Josie and Alex.



Dale Arlene born June 28, 1946 married Ed. Yakimowich (son of Alex and Eva Yakimowich) of Lake Eliza, Alta.) on August 2, 1963. They lived at Dewent, Alta. for a number of years where Ed was employed as an Agent for the United Grain Growers. In 1980 they were transferred to Smoky Lake, Alta. where Ed continues as an agent for the same company and Dale is employed at the "Old Fashioned Bakery". They have a family of four children. Eddie Jr. born Nov. 17, 1964. Katy born Sept. 26, 1965. Bonnie born Sept. 28, 1966, Carol born Sept. 17, 1969.

28-56-9 from John Krissa which was formerly owned by his father H. Krissa.

Our three oldest children started their school years at the Lac Bellevue School, their teacher was the late Mr. Steve Petruk. They had to walk three and one-half miles daily to and from school, except in the winter, on very cold days, Alex would drive



Alexander Gene born March 12, 1948 married Julie, daughter of Donat and Noella Roberge of St. Paul, on June 14, 1969. Allen and Julie live in Leduc, Alta. and Allen does drywalling in and around Edmonton, Alta. They have a family of 3 girls. Michelle, March 1, 1971. Lisa, June 20, 1973 and Jody Sept. 14, 1976.



Dolores Juliet born Oct. 6, 1949 married Jack Hamel of Terrace B.C. on November 10, 1967.

Jack does drywalling and Dolores is employed at the Rosehaven Nursing Home at Camrose, Alta. They have a family of two children, Laureen born June 19, 1968 is in figure skating passing to Senior Class in 1980. Randy, born April 1, 1970, he plays hockey and dreams of one day making it to the N.H.L.



Dean Adel, born December 18th, 1956, married Stefanie daughter of Steve and the late Mary Pelech of Vilna, Alta. Dean works for Hi-Way 28 Freight Way in St. Paul, Alta. and Stef is employed as a Stenographer at the Royal Bank in St. Paul, Alta.

them to school with horses and sleigh, picking them up after school.

When the schools were centralized, our children went by bus to St. Paul attending the Catholic schools. Dean, the youngest, started his school years in St. Paul.

We farmed in the Lac Bellevue district until June 4th, 1976, at which time we sold our farms to Maude and Dave Rintoul, and we moved to the town of St. Paul. On June 8th, 1976, we bought a home from Mr. Steve Strynadka, where we are living at present.

Alex went to work on July 13th, 1976 with Hi-Way 28, owned by William (Bill) Zacharko; I was employed on December 8th, 1976, by the A-1 Laundry and Dry Cleaners, owned by Mr. Dip Lee and managed by Terry Collins.

DANIEL AND ANNA HARMATIUK

Daniel Harmatiuk was born in 1888 in the Ukraine, a place called Bokovina. In 1911, he left his wife and son to seek for work in Canada. He was 23 years of age at this time. Upon leaving his home land and family, Daniel arrived in Halifax, Nova Scotia. After spending a very short time there, he left for Ontario to work for the Railroad. He worked 10 hour days at 75¢ a day. While working here, they had a dynamite shed with a young lad looking after it and unfortunately this dynamite blew up the shed and the young lad's life ended here. As there was not anyone else at the time to look after the dynamite, Daniel got his first promotion. He was making \$1.00 a day now. He worked in Ontario for one year and in 1912 the Railroad moved him to Vancouver, B.C. He only worked here one more year and in 1913, he quit his job in Vancouver and set out for the prairies. His ambition was to own his very own homestead, however, being alone he kept on working at various farm jobs.

It was still in 1913 that Daniel went to work for Wasył Werenka, a relative to his wife Anna who had homesteaded east of Duvernay, Alberta. He had a full day's work cleaning a barn and whenever it rained he remained in the barn repairing harnesses. There was never an idle moment for Daniel. His wages were somewhat cut back from his previous job, as his earnings were only \$1.00 a week.

In 1914, Anna Harmatiuk (nee Kozak) arrived with one child to meet Daniel at the Werenka home. Daniel and Anna worked here doing various farm duties for approximately two years, when they decided they needed a place of their own. Daniel and Anna applied for a homestead in the Lac Bellevue area in 1915. (Land location N.E. 19-56-9-W4th). Upon purchasing this homestead, they both went to work to build a one room, sodded roof house.



1922 in St. Paul — Daniel Harmatiuk, Mike Harmatiuk, Anna Harmatiuk.



Harmatiuk homestead at Lac Bellevue 1937 — Anna and Daniel Harmatiuk.

Their floor was made of logs and mud plastered over. They also built a clay oven.

Daniel and Anna cut grain by hand up to year 1920. Daniel however, did work his land using horses.

As these years came and went, 1919 was an unforgettable year and almost the worst, when it was so very hot and dry and Anna had to walk into a slough up to her waist to cut whatever weeds there were with a sickle to feed to the cattle, as they were starving.

Daniel always tried to pick up odd jobs in either Ispus or Shepinitz, while Anna stayed home to look after the farm and care for their children.

Daniel and Anna both acted as midwives in the Lac Bellevue district.

Wherever there is hardship, there always seems to be some humor. Once when Daniel and Mr. Diachuk (owner of one of the barns in St. Paul) went to thresh at Ispus (a machine which was pulled by a steamer), Daniel and Mr. Diachuk made



Anna Harmatiuk and great-granddaughter - 1972.

a bet for \$5.00, that whatever Mr. Diachuk threw to Daniel, Daniel would keep up by feeding this machine. However, this started in the morning and by noon Daniel was getting somewhat tired. Daniel told the cook to put some soap into Mr. Diachuk's soup, which she did and Mr. Diachuk ate a hearty meal. When about 2:30 came around, the soup began to work. And work it did. Pitching this grain to Daniel, problems began to arise: not wanting to lose his bet, his only alternative was to remove his pants and work in this manner until 7:00 in the evening. Daniel ended up winning the bet and Mr. Diachuk missing his supper.

In November of 1927, Daniel purchased still another quarter (S.E. 29-56-9-W4th) and in November of 1928, a third quarter section was purchased, (N.W. 19-56-9-W4th). The very same year he cleared approximately 50 acres using horses.

In 1939, Daniel purchased another quarter of land N.W. 17-56-9-W4th. He made his purchase from Donat Noel.

Having three quarters of land, Daniel and Anna did not have much of a social life, as there never was time for it. They farmed these three quarters until 1945, when his sons were able to be a great help to them. In 1948, while Daniel was working



Daniel Harmatiuk with great-grand-daughter - 1976.

the field, he knew a storm was coming and very quickly. He had set for home putting the horses in the barn, unhitching them, just to walk out of the barn and hear a crack behind him. He returned to the barn to see one of his borrowed horses had been struck by lightning. Losing one of his work horses, he ran, not walked, some two miles to his sons to report the incident. This is quite a loss, especially when 4 horses were needed.

Daniel and Anna farmed up to the fall of 1969, when he retired at the age of 81 and Anna 77. His land was sold to the Community Pasture and Daniel and Anna moved to Edmonton to live with their daughter. Their stay only lasted some 9 months, when they decided St. Paul would be their home place.

During the summer of 1970, Daniel and Anna purchased a home in St. Paul for \$7,500.00. Their

stay in their home was only some 5 years when Anna, on November 3rd, 1975, passed away at the age of 85 years. Daniel was then taken in by his son Mike and daughter-in-law Olive, to live with them for 2 short years. It was getting rather difficult at this time, so Daniel went to reside at Parkland Nursing Home. He spent two years in the nursing home and his health failed. On April 2nd, 1980, Daniel passed away at the ripe old age of 92 years.

Daniel and Anna had eight children: 5 girls and 3 boys who are: John, living in St. Paul, Mike, living in St. Paul, Alex, living in St. Paul, Mary Archinuk, living in Edmonton, Martha Archinuk, living in Calgary, Rose Worobec, living in Edmonton, Lucy Fochuk, living in Edmonton, Anne Morris, living in Coquitlam, B.C.

HARMATIUK, MIKE AND OLIVA

by Mike Harmatiuk

I was born in October 1918, at Lac Bellevue. In those days, a child would be brought into the world at home. My brothers and sisters were all born in our farmhouse, with my father being the midwife, for all of us.

By the time I was seven, and starting school, my recollection of wheat being ground into flour will never be forgotten. My father had two large grindstones, one placed on top of the other. Wheat was poured into the hole on top and, by turning the top stone, flour would drop through the bottom hole. Even though the flour was dark in color, bread baked in the outside oven tasted very good. This outdoor oven was built out of willow sticks and mud.

As we grew up, we did chores and helped our father in the fields. Mother always had a large garden, and little was bought from the store. Hogs were sold for about \$2.00, and I remember my father selling two year old steers for about \$15.00.

I did not like school, and resented wearing rags on my feet instead of stockings inside my rubbers. That was the best we had. I quit school before I was fifteen, and stayed home to help my father on the farm.

There was a dance platform located on the south side of Lac Bellevue, and dances were held there every Saturday night. Some of us would go there, but had no money to pay for admission, so we would sneak in. When collection time came, we would run away.

I went a lot to National Hall because I could get into the dance hall without paying. Mrs. Zacharko would always let me in this way. A bottle of homebrew would be bought by chipping in with my friends. Mr. Mike Taschuk was the first to give me a drink of homebrew.

In 1935, hail destroyed all our crops, so I went to work north of Two Hills for two months and

earned \$150.00. I bought some clothes and gave my father \$50.00 to buy wheat for the next spring seeding.

In 1937, I left home with a friend, caught a freight train at Myrnam and ended up in Brandon, Manitoba. The police told us to go back to Regina where there was work available because harvesting was in progress there. When we came into Regina, there were eight hundred of us on that train. I walked 25 miles, got a job, and worked until harvesting was finished, then came home in time for harvesting at Lac Bellevue.

My father bought me a quarter of land in 1939, from Mr. Donat Noel. It was N.W. 17-56-9-W4.

In 1940, I was called up for one month's army training, and I joined the army in the spring of 1941. I was sent to Grande Prairie for my basic training, then to Shilo, Manitoba where I was put into the Royal Canadian Artillery. I trained there in Anti-Tank and Anti-Aircraft, then was sent to Winnipeg for further training.

While in Winnipeg, I met my wife Oliva, who was nursing. We were married there.

In March 1942, I was sent to England, and while there I was put in the 7th Med., Royal Canadian Artillery, a regiment from Ontario. In 1944, I was sent to the front lines in France and moved on from there to Belgium, Holland, and Germany.

In 1945, I came back to Canada and directly to Winnipeg to bring my wife Oliva and daughter Evelyn to my home district of Lac Bellevue. Evelyn had been born in Winnipeg.

After we came to Lac Bellevue, we lived with my parents until the spring of 1946, when we built a house and moved onto our own land. Oliva did not know anything about farming, but she sure learned fast! The first cow we got from my mother, I milked for three days. Then I told Oliva that if she wanted any milk, she must learn to milk the cow herself. She did. As the years went by, she milked ten cows and had all the chores to do as I was kept busy in the field. She drove the tractor during harvest, and helped me pick rocks, of which there were plenty.

In the winter, I used to go to work in lumber camps north of Fox Creek. Oliva had to do all the chores, as the children were attending school. Her life was as mother, father, farmer, everything else when I was away.

As the children grew, they all helped us with the farming. There was always something to do. We stayed on the farm for 21 years. Some were good; some were bad. We attended a lot of parties and dances, and I think we had more fun then than now.

In 1967, we moved to St. Paul, bought a new house, and we both went to work. I worked as a bartender for \$1.25 an hour, and Oliva worked at the hotel office for 90¢. She later worked at the



Mike and Oliva Harmatiuk Family L-R: Evelyn, Oliva, Terry, Mike, Michael Jr.

nursing home in St. Paul. I was still at the hotel until we tried to join a Union. I was told I had no job, so I picketed the hotel. That didn't accomplish very much, but I believe I was the first to walk a picket-line in St. Paul.

I next worked at the nursing home, then for K and K Builders, for nearly three years. From 1972 - 1977 I worked for Ouellette Construction. Since 1977, because of bad health, I am only able to work part-time at carpentry. Oliva left the nursing home, and worked at Stedman's, then at the Co-operative Store, where she is still employed.

We have three children: Evelyn (Mohr) at Ardrossan; Michael in St. Paul; Terry (Smoliak) in Calgary.

JOHN AND ANNE HARRIS

by Anne Harris

I was born Anna Marie Niedzielski, on a farmstead home, at Flat Lake to John and Evelyn Niedzielski (nee Kurek). I was delivered by a Mrs. Wallace Kriaski, my midwife. I was educated in a country school in Flat Lake and furthered my education by correspondence. I am the third of four children.

My brother George (deceased now), the eldest of us, my sister Helen, second born (married to Mike Tymofichuk), then myself, the third member of the family and last, but not least, came along sister Alice who is married to William Tymofichuk.

At the age of seventeen, I married and left our farmstead at Flat Lake to live in the city of Edmonton for twenty-three years.

In the twenty-three years, I had two children; James and Dave. I also owned and operated two beauty salons.



This is a picture of son Dave's wedding to Helen Johnson on Oct. 18, 1980. The vows were exchanged on the back lawn at John and Anne Harris's overlooking Lake Eliza.

In 1972, I remarried John Harris, born October 19th, 1934, son of John and Nellie Harris from Stanger, Alberta. He was educated in Edmonton, at the Victoria Composite High School, then furthered his education at SAIT for four years taking mechanics. John has one son, Kim, born of a previous marriage. We bought our land from John Paliwoda and we moved to our Lake Eliza farm on November 27th, 1976.

John is presently employed by a realty firm in St. Paul and I am presently employed as a part time hairdresser and garden as a hobby.

We love our farmstead. As the saying goes, "You can take the girl away from the country but you can't take the country away from the girl."

THE HAUZENBERGER FAMILY AT MANY LAKES

by Mary B. Mark

Our parents, Edward and Frieda Hauzenberger were born and educated in Switzerland. They came to Canada in 1912 from London, England, where they were married. Their first homestead was in the Battle River country of Alberta, 30 miles from Alliance, their nearest post-office. This life did not suit Dad too well. He looked around for other prospects. In 1927 they came to St. Paul from Calgary with the four children, Freda, Fred, Maude and myself, (Mary), and a herd of Holstein dairy cattle. They operated the Lake View Dairy for several years and we attended school in St. Paul.

During this time Dad took up a homestead, the S.E. 20-57-9-W4th about five miles south of St. Paul



Ed and Frieda Hauzenberger with Mary, Fred and Maude, Summer of '31.

and bordering on the north-east of Surveyor's Lake. He built a sheep shed on this land which burned to the ground in a prairie fire along with all the sheep, our dog and the newly sheared wool.

After this we moved back to Calgary for a short time, but with the Depression closing in everywhere they decided to keep the homestead. In the summer of 1930 Fred, then 17, returned with some hired help to build a log house 28 by 16 on the same site as it afforded a fine view of all the surrounding country for miles.

In December, Mom, Maude and myself went to join Fred on the homestead. Dad kept his job with the Y.M.C.A. in Calgary, earning money to set us up with a team of horses, five cows, four pigs and some chickens. All this did not impress me as much at the time. He sent us our first new cabinet model battery operated radio which brought music, the news of the world and "Ma Perkins" into our lives.

Mom and Fred began a small farming operation, which Fred supplemented with the hauling of wood to St. Paul, trapping muskrats and the occasional unforgettable skunk. Maude and I would walk the three miles to Many Lakes School where Mr. Floyd Stauffer was the new teacher, out from Edmonton with his wife and baby daughter. We were twelve in the one-room schoolhouse. I was the oldest, in grade seven. Most memorable, perhaps, were the Nature hikes when Mr. Stauffer



Fred displays results of a winter's trapping in the North, 1950.

would teach us the names of all the local flora and fauna. The teacher was highly important to the social life of our small community and we would become very fond of them. Miss Lola Wilkening was the next teacher and after that, our sister Freda taught the Many Lakes school for nine years.

Looking back now to our life on the 'homestead', is to remember the stringent and difficult times, but also to appreciate the many good and happy times. Mom was a wonderful, hard-working and dependable Mother. An item of importance to her life at the time was the finding of her wedding ring which had been lost for 16 years in the cow pasture of their original homestead. The new owner, in ploughing up the land, unearthed the gold ring with its inscription "E.H. 1912" and traced it to the rightful owner.

Mom kept up with current events of the times and sympathized with the hardships of people living in the Dust Bowl of Saskatchewan. She would remark that we lived in "God's Green Valley" and she taught us to be grateful for our blessings.

We remember fondly how she would read to us from the works of Charles Dickens and others to pass away the long winter days, when school



Frieda and her guitar, first year as teacher, Alain S.D. north of St. Paul.

shut down for January and February. She was school trustee along with Mr. Robert Nieberding and Mr. A. J. Talbourdet until the Big Division was brought in.

In 1933 Freda and Emile Gosselin were married and came to live on a farm just two miles from us. They had two children.

The years went by sharing in community activities, visiting and being visited, acquiring more homestead land and working toward building the new house on Fred's place, where we moved in 1935. In 1941, I married Alexander (Sandy) Mark of Bonnyville who was in the R.C.A.F. and while he was Overseas, I lived at home with our daughter, Sandra Lynne. On his return in 1945, we went to Edmonton, where Sandy operated a service station until 1976. We have three children, and six grandchildren and live near Radway in a home of



A day picking raspberries at the Hauzenberger farm, Mrs. Frieda Hauzenberger, Mrs. Irene Picard, Fred Hauzenberger, the Picard girls.

his original design, with solar features.

Freda went to teach at Athabasca, where Emile died in 1945. She taught school for more than 36 years in all and continues to be called in to 'sub'. She lives on a ranch with her husband, Bill Wood. They have five children and fourteen grandchildren.

Maude married George Krissa whose parents were pioneers in the Lac Bellevue district. They live at Lindberg where George has been employed at the Windsor Salt Plant for the past 33 years. They have four children and six grandchildren.

Mom lived to enjoy her twelve grandchildren. After her death in September, 1960, Fred sold the farm to its present owner, Joseph Saeger.

Fred's heart has always been in trapping, hunting and fishing and he follows these pursuits on his trapline in the Foothills region of Alberta, where he lives happily as a mountain guide and keeps a string of pack horses.

Dad passed away at 93 years of age at Athabasca in December, 1976. He spent most of his retirement years in Edmonton, in close touch with the family, enjoying good health and keeping in contact with other old timers.

We, their children are grateful that they came to North-eastern Alberta and for all the opportunities we have had in our wonderful country.

This was a poem I had published in the Winnipeg Free Press in 1954. It was inspired by 'homestead memories' and you may print it if you wish. Because the two top lines are a little hard to read, for your information, they are as follows:

The Slough

The well at the top of the hill was dry,
The lake was far away,
But down below the bend in the road
The willow slough held sway.

A mirror for the sky so blue
It wound all through the willow
Its boggy banks all mossy grew
For fallen logs, a pillow.

Above and between the branches green
The fragrant breezes blew
While here and there in shade so rare
The dew-dropped violets grew.

So dip, and fill, the pail hold still
And carefully skim the top,
A bug, a twig, a leaf or two,
What matter, do not stop.

For a cup of tea on a summer's day
Can all the better be,
If water is brought from such a spot
For the likes of you and me.

— Mary B. Mark

FRED HAWRELUK

Fred Hawreluk came to Canada in 1912. For the first few months after his arrival in Canada, he was employed by the CNR in Innisfree. In 1914, he sent for his mother, Anna, his wife Catherine and four children, Anne, Julia, Mary and Mike and moved



Catherine and Fred Hawryluk 1944 at their Lac Bellevue homestead.

his family to a homestead in the Lac Bellevue district. He farmed for about three years, after which time Mr. Hawreluk sought employment away from home, while his wife and family worked on the farm. In the years to follow, five more children, Jean, Bill, Pete, John and Margaret were born to



Anne and Pete Michaluk wedding 1922? Back row: Ernestine Demchuk, Joe Makowecki, Antonia Bergzanski, Fred Hawryluk. Picture taken at Hawryluk homestead.

this couple. Although times were desperate, Mr. Hawreluk managed to buy more land and kept his family at home — everyone helping and working together, to better their life in this new country.

As the children grew older, marriage claimed most of them. The first one of this family to marry and leave home was Anne, who married Pete Michaluk in 1922. They farmed for many years in the Lake Eliza district. Julia in turn married Sam Zaviduk in 1928 and followed her husband around the province wherever his employer, the CNR sent him. Mary and Jean were married in 1933, Mary to Henry Burke and residing in Flat Lake, and Jean to Tom Lasichuk and farming in Lac Bellevue. Mike married Mary Krissa in 1935 and also farmed in Flat Lake. Misfortune struck the family when two of the children, Bill and Margaret, passed away. John left home at an early age, working for awhile and finally joined the Armed Forces during the 2nd World War. He was married after the war and settled in Ontario. Pete, in the meantime, took over the family farm. Mr. and Mrs. Hawreluk lived there with their son until their death in: (Fred — June, 1949), (Catherine — spring of 1954). Peter continued farming the old homestead until his death in October, 1980.

GEORGE HENLEY

by Mrs. Lena Henley

George Henley is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Henley of Lafond. He left Lafond in 1928 to homestead at Girouxville in the Peace River region. In 1941, he married Lena Gill, daughter of Joseph Gill. They farmed in Girouxville until 1966 when they sold their land and moved to Edmonton where they now live. They had three daughters and one son who passed away in 1980 at the age of 35. He had one son Dallas.

George and Lena's daughter Aurore is married to Henry Warzonek of Guy. They have one son and one daughter — Gary and Laurie-Anne.

The second daughter, Georgette, is married to Lauriat Pelltier of Guy. They moved to Edmonton where they now reside. They have one son and one daughter Dwayne and Cindy.

The last girl, Sylvianne, is married to Marcel Ouellette of Edmonton and they have one son Shawn.

JEAN AND EMELIE HANLEY (HENLEY)

by Pauline (Hanley) Steele

Jean and Emelie Hanley (Henley) came West in the early fall of 1912. They were then twenty-six and twenty-two respectively. Their family consisted of one small son, eleven month Jean-Louis.

The voyage from Mont Louis, Gaspé to Alberta



Jean and Marie Hanley taken in Montreal on their trip to the west. They were 22 years old. (Could you Please put at beginning of Jean Hanley's story).

was a long and tedious one. Travelling to Montreal took several days. After waiting to make connections, they boarded the train that would take them to Edmonton and on to Vegreville. Their coach was equipped with a small stove where food was prepared. Sleep was attained either by lying down on a hard seat or sitting up. Having reached their destination a week or ten days later, the newcomers were driven to Lafond in a horse drawn vehicle.

The young family was fortunate. They had been preceded by a brother, Joseph and his family in 1908, and upon arriving, moved in with them. Their parents, Philippe and Marie Hanley, who had arrived earlier in 1912, lived next door to Joseph's, in a small shack. The building burned to the ground later that fall, leaving the elder couple destitute. They too moved in with Joseph. About one month after arriving, Jean and Emelie lost their little son.

On arriving West, Philippe applied for homesteads for Jean and himself in the Lake Bellevue area. Later in the fall of 1912, Jean and Emelie, Philippe and Marie, moved to Jean's parcel of land.

It had previously been owned by Mr. Xavier Breault and had a mudthatched shack with an



Philippe and Marie Hanley. Lived out their lives with the Jean Hanley family. Both died at our home. Philippe died in St. Paul in 1941. He had been predeceased by Marie who died in Lafond.

earthen floor. It was in this building that they spent their first western winter. The following year, Jean built a house just next to it. Philippe and Marie were to live the rest of their lives with their son and his family. The Henley district was to get its name from them. Over the years, there were several moves between Lafond and Lake Bellevue. Hail finally drove them to sell what they could and they moved to St. Paul in 1936.

Jean and Emelie had a family of fourteen children of which seven survive. They are Armand, Louisa, Jean-Louis, Emile, Henri, Pauline and Romeo. Jean passed away in Prince George, B.C. in 1972. He was eighty-six years old. Emelie, who is now ninety, lives at the Sunnyside Manor in St. Paul. She is always happy welcoming old friends and neighbours and recalling by-gone times.

MR. AND MRS. JOSEPH HENLEY

(by Sr. Aurore Henley) Translated by Henri Robinson

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Henley (nee Wilhemine Robinson) Family. Born May 16, 1882 in Gaspé, Que., on May 16 in the year 1882, Mr. Joseph Henley learned and worked at different trades till he reached 27 years of age. These trades included fishing, lumberjack, and driving logs down the river. Married quite young, Joe came to Alberta because the parents of his wife had already moved here, and also because of his spirit of adventure, a spirit common to all sailors and fishermen.

When Mr. Henley was asked about his first impressions of the West, he answers definitely, "If I would have had the money to return to Gaspé, I would have gone right back." Why he was asked? His answer was spontaneous. "Because I was lonely for the water". Certainly one cannot forget easily the environment in which one was born.

By boat, on train, and by horse.



Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Henley 60th wedding anniversary at the home of their oldest daughter, Mrs. Marie Anne Remillard at Girouxville Nov. 1964.



Joseph Henley Family L.R. Front row: George, Philippe, Adrienne on Wilhelmine's knee, Eva. L.R. Back row: Joseph Henley, Omer, Marie Anne.

"Two days on a steam boat to reach Montreal from Gaspé, four days on the train to Vegreville, and another day by horse and buggy to reach Lafond," is briefly the journey from Gaspé to Lafond of the Henley Family with its five members. The adventure was not complete, for once arrived, Joe had to work for a year, twelve to fourteen hours a day, before he could possess his own piece of land.

"In those days one had to work fourteen hours a day to earn one dollar! But I was somewhat lucky," states Joe. "For I worked a few months for some engineers, and then, for the same wages, I had to work only ten hours. Afterwards I took a 'Homestead' and I bought another quarter of land and began to farm.

Farming! Not only a word, but the history of all pioneers who came west at the turn of the century. But let us continue with Mr. Henley," We had to build a house, a log house covered with sod, to till the soil, it was with oxen that we did the task, and later on with horses." Mr. Henley's homestead was N.W. 1/4-26-56-10-4. In 1919, the family moved to Foisy to be closer to a school. In the years that followed the family increased to nine children.

In 1945, Mr. and Mrs. Joe. Henley, after raising their family, left St. Paul to install themselves in Girouxville, where two of their children lived already. Mr. Henley built a house in which he lived until 1966. When his wife passed away in 1966, Joe. decided to leave his house to go and live in the



Joseph Henley and his wife Wilhelmine, Jean Henley, his wife (Emile) Alphonse Robinson, his wife (Marie Louise).

home for the elderly in McLennan. Joe passed away on Jan. 31, 1973.

Mrs. Joseph Henley (nee Wilhelmine Robinson) 1886-1966 was born at Mont Louis, Quebec. She was the eldest in a family of nine. On Nov. 23, 1904, she married Joseph Henley of the same parish. They raised nine children. They also raised Patrick Lefebvre. Aside from raising her family, Mrs. Henley was a midwife. I don't know how many babies she has welcomed into this world, but I imagine it is quite a number, since in those days people were not as good at planning families as today, therefore, families could include as many as ten to twelve or so children. Yet, they survived, and had many good yarns to tell. They did not need birth control pills, nor tranquilizer pills. Mrs. Henley was one of these ladies whose faith had grown to the point where no sacrifice would put down her spirit. It is in Our Lady of Lake Nursing Home at McLennan that Mrs. Henley passed away, very quietly, at the age of 80, on May 15, 1966.

The Children;

Marie Anne (Remillard) of Girouxville.

George of Edmonton.

Eva (Laverdière) of Vancouver.

Adrienne (Mrs. Cody) of Langley, B.C.

Sr. Aurore of Edmonton.

Claire (Mrs. Gironard) of Calgary.

Roland of Girouxville.

Philippe of Peace River.

Lucien of Vancouver.

Information provided by Sister Aurore Henley

— Translated by Henri Robinson.

GLEN AND MARY LOU (COOKE) HERRICK

In April, 1972, Glen came to St. Paul and went to work at St. Paul Sales & Service. On May 30th, of the same year, we moved our possessions from

Shaunavon, Saskatchewan, to the late René Tremblay home, S.E. quarter 32-57-10. The farm buildings were in a state of deterioration, but after some modification, the house was liveable. We immediately set about building a new back porch on the house after our dogs (who were confined there) walked out through the north wall. Also we tore down many old log buildings that had collapsed and moved several away from the house.

We hadn't been at our new abode more than two hours, when we made an emergency visit to St. Thérèse Hospital, after our oldest daughter tore open the bottom of her foot on a small nail head protruding from the floor of the little balcony on the house. In the following summer, we made so many trips to "emergency" that we wondered if they didn't begin to think we were "child abusers", when David fell off the glider on our swing set and needed stitches in his head; later Pauline "jack-knifed" her bike on the gravel hill south of us and tore open her back. While playing house with his sisters, David (4 yrs. old then) fell off an old cupboard and badly cut his ear.

All three children attended school at Glen Avon and the girls are now in Regional High School. Connie graduates in 1980.

In October 1975, Glen went to work for the Department of Indian Affairs as Maintenance Supervisor of schools and in August of 1976, we began to build our new home. The following August we moved in.

Our family enjoys horseback riding and in general, the out-of-doors. David belongs to Cubs and he and Pauline are 4H members in Light Horse. Connie, Glen and Mary Lou are very much involved in the church, St. Paul United. Glen and Connie both being board members and Mary Lou helps teach Sunday School, belongs to U.C.W. and



Glen and Mary Lou Herrick's first home in Alberta, what had been the late René Tremblay's residence.



Glen and Mary Lou Herrick's new home, facing south, taken in February 1980.

she and Connie are choir members. We also are members of the North Star Square Dance Club.

Coming from the flatlands of Saskatchewan, it was quite a shock and still is, to see so much needless clearing of trees and bush from the country side here. Our nature loving family were in tears, when Mrs. Parkinson "topped" her majestic spruce trees and when the county cleared so many trees from the roadside in order to widen it. Although we have not been here very long, we like it and hope our children will stay on, to live their lives in this area.

GEORGE AND LILY HILL (LILY SKAKUN)

by Evelyn Popowich

George's Roots; Somewhere around 1902, Tom Hill arrived in Canada from Bukovina, Austria. He was the eldest child born to Mike and Paraska Mohiluk (Hill).

Tom Hill met and married Helen Basaraba, who'd arrived from Lankewitz, Austria, somewhere around 1904. Helen's parents were Peter and Domka Basaraba. These are Tom and Helen Hill's eight children; Eustena, Mary, Bill, Annie, George, Tom, Steve and Orest.

George was born at home Oct. 5, 1914, very near his present residence. He attended school for 11 years at nearby Pruth south of Willington, Alberta. While at school, George met a fellow student, Lily Skakun. This is her story.

Lily was born Sept. 11, 1915, near Mundare, Alberta to Kost Skakun (Onufrey's son) and his second wife Paraska (Dochuk). Please read Kost and Paraska's story under Zenovia and Fred Popowich, under their son Alex and Evelyn Popowich, rather than repeat it here, and waste precious historical space. Kost's family was living with his wife's uncle Mike Lakusta, till Kost could find a suitable homestead. When Lily was a year old, the family moved to a homestead in the Lake Eliza area, a farm that bordered Stoney Lake. Lily's brothers and sisters are; Metro, Helen (in Argentina), Zenovia (Popowich) Kassian, Alex, and Sylvester.

As a young student, Lily attended Sweetbora

School, recalling Adams as a teacher. She also recalls one teacher as constantly having to commandeer student's help in the noon-hour for the evacuation of numerous snakes from his teacherage. She recalls some school mates, Cherniawskis, Rawliuls, Yakimovichs, and Demchuks.

Somewhere around 1928-29, the Kost Skakun family moved to the Soda Lake area, where Lily attended 3 more years of school at Zhoda. She was then transferred to the Pruth School (for proximity). There she recalls teachers; Samoil, Oneschuk, Pohkay, and Kupchenko. School chums she recalls are; Zukiwskys, Lazaruks, Kozniuks, and Ropchans. She remembers child's play of hiding in the school barn-mangers. She enjoyed basketball, and softball and recalls, vividly, learning to walk on stilts. She loved races and soon learned that a barefoot racer runs much faster. In the winter, the school kids tobogganed. They used one horse and a "single tree" and a heavy piece of tin for a fast 1/2 mile ride, from and then back to the school parking the lathered horse just in time to hear the school bell announce noon time was over. Some children also played a snow game called "dogs and deers".

Lily remembers making a "playhouse" from sticks and twigs and bringing discarded bottles and cans from home to make her "mud cakes", in her "Modern playhouse". Lily was also a serious child, constantly observant of her brother's appearance, lest their pockets be out, or laces untied, or mitts or scarves missing, or even socks rumped.

During Lily's last year of school, mother Paraska broke a leg and Lily had to quit school to help at home. As it turned out, no sooner had the leg healed, when Paraska had the misfortune of breaking the other one! As her mother became more "mobile" Lily worked short periods at neighbour's place until she married George Hill, November 13, 1937.

The honeymooners lived with George's parents for one year before George bought a near-by quarter from his Dad. It had an old set of buildings but these would have to do for quite a few years to come. When they moved to their farm, they had no machinery, \$25.00 in their pockets, 4 horses, and from Lily's parents — 2 cows with calves, a brood sow, 20 chickens, and a wagon-box of oats. They worked hard, acquired more land and more work with it. Later they were able to build a new home, in which they now reside. They saw hard times and sad times, but often much fun and laughter. They are "Semi retired" on their land near Pruth. They enjoy a quiet life with weekends packed with goodtimes, when the children and grandchildren visit. These are their three children; Adele — born July 30, 1938, graduated from school at Pruth and Hairy Hill. She received her B. of Ed. at Edmonton U. of A., during which she married Mike Wygera, July 19, 1958. Their child



Taken Nov. 13, 1937.

L to R — standing: Annie Hill (Orlesky) Mrs. and Mr. George Lebatiuk (she was Popyniuk), Metro Evasiuk, Mrs. Kassian Skakun (Rachel Kalancha), Mr. and Mrs. Ladimir Babiuk (she was Mary Kolody), Kassian Skakun, Eustena Hill (became Tkachuk), Mr. and Mrs. Julius Tomashewsky (she was Hill). L to R seated: Mary Skakun (became Orlesky), Pete Wyngryniuk, Geo. and Lily, Pete Kalancha, Mary Skakun (became Tomyn).

Michele was born Aug. 23, 1962. Adele presently teaches in Edmonton. Mike is a machinist for the Edmonton School Board. The family resides in Edmonton.

Caroline, born February 2, 1946, attended school at Hairy Hill, and Edmonton's Victoria Composite High. Then she attended college for further education in Data Processing, worked for Imperial Oil, married Ernie Zaozirny July 24, 1965, worked 3 years as a teacher's assistant till their son Shelby was born Aug. 6, 1969. Marnie arrived June 27, 1975. Carol and Ernie with their children live in Edmonton. Ernie is presently employed with Fisher Scientific.

Gerald John, arrived January 15, 1950, schooled at Hairy Hill and Willingdon, then to NAIT for 2 years of Business Administration. Worked 3 years in and around Toronto, Ontario, with Majestic Construction's Pipeline. He returned to the "Home" area to farm. He married Terry Sorby of Vilna, June 22, 1974. They have 2 children — Garner Dec. 18, 1976, and Jan, June 15, 1978.

HNATUIK, TERENTEY AND THEODOSIA

by Evelyn Popowich

Theodosia was born May 19, 1902, in Russia which was then under the rule of Czar Nicholas. Her parents were Nick Bohenchuk and Antonia



1935 Hnatiuk Family L. to R.: John, Nick, Tato, Annie, Mama with Lill on her knees, Alex.

Pillipchuk. When she was eight years old, a fire burned their whole village except the church. After getting resettled, she attended school for four winters. She also joined a choir and was taught to sing at church. This education in reading, writing and singing was very useful to her in her adult life.

On February 12, 1921, 19 years old, she married Terentey Hnatiuk, 21 years old, on Russian soil, then under Polish rule. As a young man he worked at the Railway Station.

They came to Canada in 1929, with their children: John, seven years old and Alex, eighteen months old.

In Canada, their family increased with the births of Annie, Nick, Lilly, Marie and Myrna.

TERENTY AND THEODOSIA HNATIUK'S STORY

by Evelyn Popowich

This history is a little "out of the ordinary", in that, Terenty's story is given "posthumously". Some years back, he felt he was getting physically weak and that he should leave behind a written account, of his experiences, for the benefit of his descendants. I visited his widow, Mrs. T. Hnatiuk, who gave me her story. Then she read her husband's documentation of their early pioneer life. This is my honest attempt at translating his story. I now regret, terribly, not knowing better, my parent's native tongue and the Slavic, Polish and Russian complementary.

Theodosia reads from a long yellow sheet, covered with neat Ukrainian letters, that Terenty typed himself, on a "Wirainian" typewriter. We are all thankful that Theodosia received enough schooling in the old country, to be able to read what I can't begin to decipher! It goes like this:

"The story of our life in Canada".

In 1929 we arrived in Canada. I gave a down payment of \$300.00 for a quarter section of land near Foisy. \$2100.00 was the remaining balance to be paid over 10 years. The farm had 30 acres in cultivation, a log house, and a small barn. I arrived with my wife and 2 small children and was overjoyed that we had a farm, and a place to live. The 30 acres were surrounded by bush and there was no shortage of rocks. I decided, I'll use the trees for building and I'll find some place to put these rocks too! In a short time it is harvest and I must hire myself out as a farm harvest hand to a well-off farmer, a few miles away, who needs farm help. My wife and children remain at home. In a few days, a neighbour asks my wife if she could stook with his wife on his farm. He cuts the grain with a binder, and the women stook the shears behind him. In a short while, my wife has earned a sack of #2 wheat flour and a clucking hen with 10 chicks. With harvest over, I spent some time at home with

my family till the man I'd worked for, Mr. Joe Brosseau, asked if my cousin, Tom Kozak and I would brush a 100-acre stand of bush for him, for spring breaking. We spent our winter brushing, coming home Saturday night and returning to the bush Sunday afternoon. By spring, I had my own team of work horses and Tom Kozak had the same.

These we used to seed our crops. I had intended clearing more land for breaking and planting, when Mr. Joe Brosseau arrived with another proposition. He suggested I put off my brushing, because he'd rent me 80 acres of his land ready to be summer-fallowed, and then seeded. Then the next winter I could brush my own land. I explained that, with my 2 horses and an old 1 bottom plough, I could hardly hope to make 80 acres of summerfallow. He said he understood but was insistent that I take the summerfallow. He said "Go to town, there are agents to three machinery companies, I've made arrangements with them, and they can supply any machinery you might need. Drop by my home on your return." I said, "Thank you, Mr. Brosseau." The next day an agent arrives at my place. The deal was my old 1 bottom plough, for a new 2 bottom plough and a \$100.00 debt, the interest I'd pay in the fall, and the principle came due one year from now, next spring.

Shortly Mr. Brosseau and his wife drive up. They flatter me by praising my wife's garden. They say they love sauerkraut and dills that are made in wooden barrels. My wife promises to make them some, this fall, because our garden will yield plenty for all of us. The Brosseaus had 2 hired girls, but neither was sure how to put up garden produce for winter. They only planted a small garden for fresh daily use. My wife promised them a barrel of sauerkraut and a barrel of dills, but in the meantime we ask them to "Please, use as much of our fresh garden produce as you want". We have developed a 2-way friendship — they consider us "good people". Mr. Joe Brosseau knows the Cree language and customs. He does much trading and fraternizing with these natives. Since he can trust me, he takes me on many of these reserve visits and I appreciate the many friends I have made among these people. Today Mr. Joe Brosseau says "I have made arrangements for 2 horses. When they arrive, you'll have them and then you will be able to make that summerfallow. I lent you a milk cow and you can buy her now for \$72.00". I replied, "Mr. Brosseau, we are very grateful for your kindness to us". That's how I made the summerfallow with 4 horses and a 2-bottom plough. On our farm we had a few acres of hay which I gave to a local farmer, who, in return, shared some of it with me. The next year, I bought his mower and began to put up my own hay. The next winter I spent brushing and clearing my own land, I had fashioned a makeshift blacksmith shop, and when the bad weather didn't allow

me to cut bush, I taught myself to be a blacksmith.

In the spring, I seeded the rented summer-fallow and hired a man, with a tractor, to break the 40 acres I had brushed. I worked day and night. That fall I threshed over 3000 bushels of grain. Prices fell badly and I was barely able to pay my debts.

One day my wife and I hauled 2 boxes of grain out for sale, and by the time we paid our bills, we carried no money home. Nevertheless, we are grateful to be out of debt. I spent the winter at home, not seeking outside employment because the summerfallow was done, the 40 acres brushed and broken and the debts were paid, so there was no immediate need. During good winter weather, I was building our garage and some granaries, but on cold days I had my hands full in my "Kooznia", shop. I had a small truck so I had traded it for a large second-hand car. This I was remodelling into a larger truck. By spring I had traded the remodelled truck for a brand new International truck, which, with a hired man, would be a great help during the coming spring's heavy seeding schedule. After spring work, I began to realize that farming with horses was harder work than with a tractor. I could do as much with a tractor, as my wife and I could with 13 horses. I headed for town, bought an old McCormick Deering tractor, and on my way home, I stopped off at Mr. Brosseau, and I bragged a little, about my tractor. He says "It's an old tractor so it'll be a fuel guzzler and needs lots of repairs, but it'll surely work okay." He instructed his hired man to hitch my tractor to a 3 bottom plough, and I drove to my farm and ploughed the old sod into summerfallow. I used this tractor 1 year and then traded for a larger new one that I used for 4 years. Behind it I hitched 2 ploughs, each 3 shares and attached harrows, behind. I was soon able to purchase a combine and a 2-ton grain truck. I taught my wife to drive the truck and tractor, because we farmed lots of land. My record year was 1943. With my wife managing the tractor, and I the combine, and a hired man hauling grain to the granaries, we threshed 15,000 bushels of grain. I was renting some land, so not all the bounty was mine. Mr. Brosseau was entitled to his half share. Some of my neighbours compared my half-share rent to serfdom in the old country. They laughed at me but after a couple of years, I had far surpassed them. Each year was an improvement and I was pleased with my progress. (gospodarstvoja) Though Mr. Brosseau shared some of my profit, I realized that, had it not been for his generosity in our earlier years, I'd never have had the where-with-all to progress this far. He was a great help to me. He took me to the Reserve on all his trade and friendship trips. I'd go to Edmonton's sales and buy second hand, broken articles, haul them home, repair, or remodel them and then re-

sell these to the natives. I learned to be among other things, a blacksmith, a leather-smith, and a tailor, to make "old like new". When I needed farm labour help, these natives were there. I even taught one lad to drive the tractor. As the financial gap widened, the very farmer who mocked my crop sharing with the "Pahn" were coming to me, seeking employment because they needed money.

Our first years of farming were hard. Our first home was made of logs and chinked with newspaper. When the wind blew, the papers rattled and our home became a "music box".

It needed plastering so I made a batch of mud and straw plaster and set my wife to plaster a 2" coat on the inside walls. She got really busy and, in a couple of days, she had the whole interior plastered. Then we began to plaster the outside, after which we lime white-washed the interior and "presto" we've no more music. Todoshka (his nickname for his wife Theodosia) did some stooking, whereby a piglet. I had borrowed a milk cow from Mr. Brosseau, so my wife was "beside herself" with joy, she was now a "Gospadenia", (an accomplished homemaker). In the old country, eggs are only an Easter treat, here she was able to serve them daily, the hens laid beautifully.

Winter passed and spring arrived and my wife is proud of her hen management, we've over 100 newly hatched chicks! The tiny piglet now is a healthy brood sow, and we sit up all night to watch over her farrowing. For all this, she dares present us with Twins! Well, hog and cattle prices were steadily climbing so I wasn't too down-hearted about these measly Twins! One day very soon Mr. Brosseau visited and we explained how, for a cold February night's vigil, our sow rewarded us with twins. He chuckled and as usual, had a good suggestion to remedy the situation. He said "I've 20 sows to farrow this month, come, choose one tomorrow, for yourselves." The next evening that sow was at our place already! Shortly, she had 13 piglets! Were we thrilled! We now had a "Whole Bunch" of hogs and over a hundred chickens.

A Saskatchewan farmer bought land near us and brought with him, a herd of cattle. He hadn't enough feed for them, but we had more than we needed. I had seeded 200 acres of oats and the early frost hit it, so we had a good amount of "greenfeed". I traded greenfeed bundles, some chickens and lumber for his three cows and their 2 calves. At another farmer's, I traded some chickens for one sickly bull calf. My wife tended the calf well, feeding it and guarding its health so that, in a short while, he grew into a healthy animal.

My! In a short year of farming we had built up our stock to several hundred chickens, 7 head of cattle, 8 horses, and a good bunch of hogs! True, it was very difficult to find cash money because market prices were rock bottom. The cow I bought



Occasion of the Hnatiuk's 50th Wedding Anniversary 1970.
L. to R. Back: Alex, Nick, Lilly, Mary. Middle: Myrna, John, Annie.
Seated: Terentey and Theodosia.

for \$75.00 I now sold for \$10.00, 7 hogs at 200 lb. each sold for a grand total of \$15.20. My wife sold eggs at .03¢ a dozen and 5 gal. of cream for \$1.40. Wheat was 18¢ a bushel! These prices don't really bother us because we are settled in and are accustomed to life here, we are lacking nothing, and times can only get better. With this hope, we made plenty of summerfallow, seed many acres and are thankful for the work and the ability to do it. I am content because our little household lacks nothing, we made our own beer and wine, so that we can even say we "Live Well", at least, as well as we did in the Old Country. My family could be called "Prosperous", but I cannot agree because I now have a troublesome stomach ailment. It sometimes gets so bad that I must be in bed, or worse in Hospital. My farming is at a point where we are accomplishing more every year and it isn't such a struggle as it used to be: I am pleased with my "Gospodarstvo" accomplishments, or progress.

My doctors tell me I have "untamed nerves" (nezaprosnjanyee narve) and that this, plus the hard work, is affecting my stomach. He prescribes medicine and instructs me to abstain from all sour food and meat. He tells me to eat cheese, eggs, have milk and cream so that each day I'd feel better and better. I need "second medical Opinion". The second Dr. tells me to pull all my teeth because my bad teeth are poisoning my stomach and will soon produce an ulcer. He too forbids me to eat meat. A third doctor suggests major surgery to excise the ulcer. Finally, we hear that Lamont has a team of dedicated successful doctors that can be trusted, so we make plans for me to see them. These doctors take x-rays and tests, later appear, telling me they've checked me as thoroughly as is possible, they've studied the test results and are ready to give me their decision and advice. They found I have "untamed nerves" and a small ulcer. They

feel it'll all worsen if our situation remains unchanged. The doctors say, "Our advice is, quit farming, move to town and start something less stressful, so that your farm doesn't steer you into an early grave. You must guard what health you have. If you refuse to follow our advice, then prepare for your widow's and children's future needs, and buy yourself your coffin, you'll need it before long".

I came home to contemplate these doctors' advice. I began searching for an alternative. I didn't need to wait for an opportunity to come along. Right in Two Hills, I found a restaurant, 2 garages and many people came to me with offers when word was out that I was looking for a business. I chose a small old 4-car garage.

I put a down-payment on a house which we will take possession of in one month. I made a farm sale, headed back to town and immediately began to build a gigantic new garage in place of the old one. Some local towns folk chided me saying "Hey! are you going to raise sparrows in that building?" I continued construction, silently refusing to be baited. I searched out the town's very best mechanic. He was working out of a rented facility and I persuaded him to work with me. I know that, with a large garage, we could offer an all encompassing mechanical service and with the very best mechanic doing the work, we were all much more likely to succeed.

End of documentation.

This is why he left a thriving farming operation to tackle a town business. He remained a businessman till his death Oct. 16, 1978.

I am grateful, to the Hnatiuk family, for allowing us to share this part of Terentey's writings. The rest of his thoughts are of personal interest to his wife and children and are therefore "private".

HOPEY, MANFORD

by Herb Wilkinson

Manford Hopey came from Truro, Nova Scotia, and first settled around Bruce, Alberta. In 1924, Manford and a friend, Willard Brown with his wife and family came to settle in the Many Lakes area on homestead site S.E. 57-9-W4.



L-R: Jack Wilkinson, Mr. H. Wilkinson, Manford Hopey — 1936.

Manford Hopey was a bachelor, but always had time to be involved with the Many Lakes School functions. He was very fond of music, and sang many Maritime songs at the School's social affairs.

Manford Hopey died in 1979, and is buried at Bruce, Alberta.

HOVELKAMP, EWALD AND ALICE

Ewald, the youngest son of George and Antonia Hovelkamp, in 1963 purchased the land his parents homesteaded. Although he and his family; wife Alice (daughter of Ignace and Antonia Gadowski) and sons Derek and Lyle, did not reside on this



Standing: Alice and Ewald Hovelkamp. Kneeling: Left to Right: Lyle and Derek Hovelkamp.

particular piece of property, they farmed it until it was sold. Ewald then purchased his parents' property which was located two miles west of the Town of St. Paul, after their retirement into town. During this period of Ewald's life, he also worked for St. Paul Truck Service, which was owned by Ernest St. Jean, hauling freight from Edmonton to St. Paul, and also operated a fleet of 6 school buses bringing pupils into St. Paul schools from various areas around; one being the Lac Bellevue area. Following this, Ewald spent about eight years working as car salesman for St. Paul Sales and Service. He is now operating his own real estate firm in St. Paul which

is known as Dale Real Estate. His son Derek also works with this firm. Ewald's wife Alice has been an employee of the Provincial Government for several years, and in particular the Transportation Department. Lyle is presently (1981) completing his third year of a Parts apprenticeship program with the same department.

MR. GERHARD HOVELKAMP (1896-1978) AND MRS. ANTONIA HOVELKAMP (1896-1973)

by Elizabeth Lueken

Gerhard Hovelkamp, born May 3, 1896, in Woltrup, Germany, and Antonia Kl. Quade, born May 16, 1896, in Bevern, Germany, were married in St. Andrea's Roman Catholic Church in Cloppenburg, Germany, April 7/21.

There, they started their married life farming, 5 children were born in Germany. Elizabeth (Lueken), now residing in Fairview, Alberta, Gerhard, now residing in San Jose, California, Berthold, now residing in Coronation, Alberta, George (deceased 1972), and Joseph (deceased 1961).

Gerhard Hovelkamp left Bethen, near Cloppenburg, Germany in April 1928, sailed from Bremen, Germany via Atlantic to Halifax, Canada. Then by train to St. Paul de Metis, where he was met by his brother Bernhard Hovelkamp. He soon purchased a farm, which included a house, barns, horses, livestock, and machinery. He seeded his first crop in 1928. Although a dry summer, yields were average. The Hovelkamp's new Canadian farm was located 10 miles south of St. Paul de Metis, S.W. 4-57-9-W4 and S.E. 57-9-W4 and S.E. 5-57-9-4 also applied for Homestead of S.E. 6-57-9-W4 in 1928.

Gerhard Hovelkamp's brother, Bernhard emigrated to Canada in 1926, first coming to Saskatchewan and later purchased a homestead in St. Paul de Metis, S.W. 9-57-9-4. In 1936, Bernhard Hovelkamp and his wife Mary and children moved to Fairview, Alberta and settled there.

Gerhard Hovelkamp's wife, Antonia, and five children followed in June 1928, also sailing from Bremen to Halifax. The family were, Elizabeth, age 6, Gerhard, Berthold, George, and the youngest Joseph, aged 5 months. During a very difficult and stormy journey over the Atlantic, including seasickness, the baby carriage in the cabin aboard ship would run to and fro.

Arriving in Halifax, Mrs. Hovelkamp with the 5 children, stayed 1 day and 1 night in a large Immigration Hall, where food and milk were provided for the many new-comers to Canada. They then left by train from Montreal, starting their 4 day and 4 night journey from Eastern Canada to the West, to Edmonton, Alberta. During their journey, milk and food were again provided. There was also a pot bellied heater in one caboose, where mothers could



Mr. and Mrs. Gerhard Hovelkamp family — 1955. Standing: Joseph, Gerhard, Elizabeth, Ewald, Berthold, George. Sitting: Mary, Mrs. Hovelkamp, Rose, Mr. Hovelkamp, Hilda.

heat their babies' milk and the women also heated their curling irons for their hair.

Arriving in Edmonton, Alberta, they boarded the train to St. Paul de Metis. There, they were met by Gerhard Hovelkamp and his brother Bernhard. All of us and our heavy trunks and suitcases were loaded onto a wagon drawn by a team of horses. How very strange everything looked after leaving a very populated and cultured land; here there were no people or houses for miles.

The language was very difficult, but with time we could make ourselves understood. With much determination we made this our new Canadian Home in Alberta.

Soon it was time for school. Many Lakes School was our destination. Our first teacher, Mr. Sellers, lived and boarded at our neighbor's, Mr. A.J. Talbourdet, so we walked the 3 miles with him so we would not get lost in the wilderness. There were 7 students to start with, but as the years went by we had 28 students from Grades 1 to 8. Our teachers were Mr. Sellers, Mr. Stauffer, Miss Lola Wilkening and Mrs. Freda Gosselin.

All these school years were in the depression, so often we were hungry and poorly clothed. We also

went to school during July and August as no teachers were available until they built a teacherage or house for the teacher, so that improved our school days.

During this time 4 more children were born, Hilda (Mrs. Stan Powers), now residing in St. Albert, Alberta, Ewald, now residing in St. Paul, Alberta, Mary (Mrs. Nick Stasyk), now residing in St. Paul, Alberta, Rosie, (Mrs. Felix Cassidy), now residing in Nanaimo, B.C.

Times were tough but somehow we survived. There was a severe hail storm where everything was wiped out. Wood and water for the houses as well as cattle were very necessary items. Many people cut and hauled wood to St. Paul de Metis for one dollar a load, so the most necessary groceries and clothing could be bought.

During these very hard times, Mr. Hovelkamp tried to get relief or welfare, but to no avail, as he had too much livestock, which were worth nothing if sold. Land was being broken with horses, the older children had to work very hard doing chores, picking roots and rocks to help clear the land, besides going to school.

Mr. and Mrs. Hovelkamp also had the Lac



Mr. Gerhard Hovelkamp riding horseback through fields of stooks
— 1929.

Canard Post Office at their house. Saturday afternoons the neighbors would come to get their mail, many hoping for mail from relatives and friends in the "Old Country". Very few could read English, so a letter from "Home" was tonic in those tough years.

The neighbors were all wonderful people; no matter what hardship came along, they were always willing to help one another.

Christmas was a beautiful season as the neighbors would invite each other over to play cards and have sing songs, the children were very happy to get warm mitts, clothing and boots. Toys were not given as the money was too scarce, but many did have a Christmas tree trimmed with home-made cookies, silver paper and candles.

In the winter months, neighbors would get



1977 — 5 Generations: Gerhard Hovelkamp Great granddaughter Michelle, Great great granddaughter Gaetane, granddaughter Caroline, daughter Elizabeth, all of Fairview, Alta. Seated: Mr. Gerhard Hovelkamp at the age of 81 of St. Paul, Alta.

together to visit by the ever faithful coal oil lamps. Many immigrants made their "Home" with the Hovelkamp family till they were able to secure jobs or settle in the area. Many worked for \$5.00 a month and room and board.

During these years, parcels were sent to us from our Grand-parents in Germany. How happy we were as they consisted of warm clothing for us all and these parcels were so greatly appreciated.

Recreation was limited to fishing, skiing, and sleigh riding in winter, on the many hills in the area. Summer recreation was baseball, swimming and 1 school picnic. The older people were very good at making home-made skis and sleighs much to the younger ones' delight.

In 1937, Mr. Hovelkamp bought a cabinet radio, so the neighbors would come over to visit as well as quietly listen to the news and music. Wilf Carter was a favorite then, as well as the toe tapping music. Love and happiness was spread in many different ways to make life more tolerable with the very helpful and wonderful neighbors. When the war clouds spread over Europe, trying to get news over the short wave radio was not successful. Soon after the outbreak of World War II, the conditions in Canada improved rapidly with the young Hovelkamp family growing into a new era. They had all survived the great change in their habitat, and the ever dreadful depression of the 1930's. Lifestyles changed rapidly for all Canadians, although the war raged on in a far away continent.

During the last few years the Hovelkamps lived on the First Home farm site, an Outside Mass was held in the hay meadow, neighbors would come from near and far with horse and wagon, or by then some had cars to attend the church services and a gathering afterwards.



Henry Schaffer, Mr. and Mrs. Gerhard Hovelkamp, Johanna Nienaber. Hovelkamp children: Gerhard, George, Elizabeth, Berthold, and Joseph in carriage, old faithful dog "Sporty". Taken in 1928 soon after Mrs. Hovelkamp arrived from Germany. Crop in background is first crop sown in Canada.

In 1942, Mr. and Mrs. Hovelkamp and family moved to a farm west of St. Paul, where they mixed farmed as well as had a dairy.

In 1955, they moved to St. Paul, where they retired.

On October 24, 1973, Mrs. Antonia Hovelkamp, was layed to rest at the age of 78; she was later joined by her beloved husband Gerhard on May 3, 1978 at the age of 82.

JOHN HRUSHKA

by Ernest Hrushka

John Hrushka, born in Bukovina, Romania, came to Canada approximately in 1910. He worked his way westward, stopping at Canmore, Alberta, where he worked in the coal mines. In 1913, he took up homesteading in the Chesterville area. While farming he did plastering for neighbors and other people in Brosseau, Foisy and Lafond.

He married Mary Rosychuk and they have nine children: Rose, Nick, Lucy, Bill, Steve, Ann, Stella, Rachel, and Martha, of which Rose, Lucy, Ann and Stella are still living.

In 1928, tragedy occurred when Mrs. Hrushka passed away. This left nine motherless children, ranging in age from three months to 13 yrs. Her younger sister, Elizabeth, came to Canada from Romania for a visit, not knowing of the tragedy. Shortly after her arrival, John and Elizabeth were married. (Although she was only 19 years old) Elizabeth became stepmother to her late sister's children.

John and Elizabeth lived on the farm until 1963, when they retired from farming and moved to St. Paul, Alberta.



Elizabeth and John Hrushka, 1954.



René Marion and Ernest Hrushka, 1954.

While on the farm, they raised a second family of nine children: Johnny, Victoria, Ernest, George, Isidore, Gloria, Mary Ann and two other girls that died at an early age. In addition to farming, John worked for the municipality as a councillor. During the winter months he would work in a logging camp in Prince George, B.C.

The children remember, not only the hard times, but also the happy times of neighborly get togethers. As it was a period of few radios and no T.V.'s, they made their own entertainment. They recall going to Lafond on Sunday nights to see the movie, at that time it was only 10¢. Also many times René Marion, a bachelor friend and close neighbor, would come over with his violin and play for the family and friends.

Of the first family, Rose married Ernest King and farmed near Duvernay, Alberta. They retired from farming and moved to Edmonton, where Ernest passed away in 1975. Rose is still living in Edmonton. Nick married Noella Desaulniers and lived in Vegreville. He passed away in 1951. Noella is living in Brosseau Alta. Lucy married Leo Robinson and they are living in Oliver, B.C. Bill married Lill Chartier and they lived in Vegreville. Bill passed away in 1980, and Lill is living in Vegreville. Steve married Violet King and they lived in Vegreville until his death in 1963, Violet moved to Rocky Mountain House where she now lives. Ann married Bill Morin and they are living in Onoway, Alta. Stella remains unmarried and is living in Vancouver, B.C. Since Rachel and Martha had been made wards of the Provincial Government shortly after their mother's death, little is known of their history.

Of the second family, Johnny married Diane Dubois and they are living in Prince George, B.C.,

Victoria married Philip Beaupre and they are living in Edmonton, Ernest married Geraldine Hamaliuk and they are living in Edmonton, George married Myrna Sanchuk and they are living in Winterburn, Alta., Isidore married Liz Jendruk and they live in Sherwood Park, Gloria married Terry Gunter and they are living in Calgary, Mary Ann married Tony Plate and they live in Calgary. All the children attended Chesterville school and can recall many humorous events that took place there.

John Hrushka passed away in December of 1968 at the age of 78. Elizabeth Hrushka is living in St. Paul at the Sunny Side Manor.

METRO HRYHIRCHUK FAMILY

by Evelyn Kowton

Metro was born in 1907 in Waskiw. He came to Canada in March of 1921 with his mother, brothers Bill and Marshall, and sisters Mary and Anne. They came to join their father already in Canada.

Jean (Popowich) was born February 1, 1908, in Bukovina. She came to Canada in 1929 by ship to Montreal, then by train to Vegreville, then onto the Lac Bellevue area. She worked first for the Fred Popowich family, then the Alex Popowich family.

Jean and Metro met at a dance in 1929. They were married on February 12, 1930. Their first home



Metro Hryhurchuk Family — 1950. Front row: Victor and Jean (Popowich). Back row: Tillie and Metro. Family living in Chilewood, B.C.



Peter Oleski Family — L. to R.: Earl; Tillie (Hryhurchuk), Peter, Ted.

was in the Lac Bellevue area (now enclosed in the St. Paul Provincial Grazing Reserve) near Beela School.

They then moved to the Lafond area for 5 years. They moved from the area in 1947 when they



Victor Hryhurchuk Family: Front row: Troy; Middle row: Tanya and Dale (Wager), Back row: Victor and Kevyn.



Metro Hryhchuk and his Sawmill. He operated a sawmill in the Lac Bellevue district for many years. This was taken in 1936 — Left to right: Metro and Bill Hryhchuk.

relocated to British Columbia.

Tillie (Natalia) was born at the Old Tom Taschuk residence on October 21, 1930. Victor was born in the St. Paul Hospital in 1943.

Upon their move to Chilliwack, B.C., Metro took up carpentry, building homes, etc. They moved to Agassiz in 1951 where he continued his trade. Many of the buildings and bridges in the lower Fraser Valley were projects that Metro worked on. He built a series of homes in the Chilliwack-Agassiz-Harrison area.

Tillie married Peter Oleksy in 1950. They have two sons; Ted and Earl, who married Linda and Sandra Popowich respectively. Both families reside in Edmonton, Alberta. Tillie and Peter have three grandchildren. Peter and Tillie live at Agassiz.

Victor married Dale Wagar in 1964. They have three children; Kevyn, Troy and Tanya. They reside in North Surrey.

While Metro continued his trade, Jean worked at the Harrison Hotel for approximately 14 years, up until her retirement.

Metro passed away in October of 1975. Jean moved back to Agassiz in 1975, and resides in her own home close to Peter and Tillie. She remains very active with embroidery, gardening and bingo. She also enjoys seasonal holidays to Reno.

THE JOHN HULL FAMILY (NEE RUTH KROCHMAL)

by Linda Fedoruk

Ruth Krochmal was the fourth child in a family of nine children born to Margaret and Walter Krochmal of Lafond. Though she was the fourth child, she decided to be the first in the family to get married. So a date was set and she married John Hull in November of 1954. John Hull was the only son of Mr. and Mrs. William Hull of St. Paul. John's parents, at the time owned and operated the Peo-



The John Hull Family: Standing: David, Colleen, Gordon, Patricia — Sitting: Linda, Wesley, Ruth, John, Cynthia.

ples Department Store in St. Paul. John was working his way into the family business, and after they were married, Ruth also did her share in the store.

A family started arriving, and because John was an only child they decided on a large family, a total of seven children blessed their home. Linda arrived on July 23, 1955, and a year later another lovely girl, Colleen arrived on June 1st, 1956. Enough girls for now they said, so as Sept. 17th, 1957 arrived, so did their first son, David. David, of course needed a



David and Sandy Hull's Twins — Michelle and Lisa.

brother so Gordon joined their family Oct. 10th 1959. A short time went by and Patricia decided that this was a great family to join, so she arrived Oct. 29, 1963. In the year 1965, on Oct. 12, Wesley joined the family and later came Nov. 29, 1968 a little bundle of joy with Cynthia in it. There were many happy, and also some sad moments as this family grew, but all are greatly treasured together.

John and Ruth have had many changes in their lifetime. They have since left the store and John has sold life insurance, and was also in Real Estate. He was also very active in the Gedeon Work (distributing bibles in schools, motels, hotels, hospitals and many other places) for many years. Their family has grown up, and many have finished school, and are on their own. Three of their children are married, and have children of their own, making Ruth and John grandparents. Colleen, the first married Brent Newfeild, and they have a lovely daughter, Amanda born in 1977. Linda, the oldest was married in 1977 to Keith Lewis, and at this point have no family. David, the third has married Sandy Wilson, and were blessed with twin girls in 1979. Their family is still growing, but this is the second generation coming now.

GEORGE AND ANNE HUNTER

George Hunter of Saddle Lake married Anne Gagnon of the St. Brides area in 1929. They resided



Standing: L-R: Raymond Nisson, Dave Hunter. Sitting: Ann and George Hunter.



Threshing Crew at George Hunter's in the early 40's. L-R: John Fodchuk, Patrick Mallon, Joe Donald, Patrick McMullian, Dave Hunter, George Hunter, Patrick McGonigal, Angus McMillian, and Patrick J. O'Neill.

in Saddle Lake farming and raising cattle. George and his brother Dave homesteaded. George and Anne raised 3 daughters and 4 sons.

Robert (Butch) Hunter of Spruce Grove.

Raymond Hunter of Saddle Lake.

Mrs. Beatrice (Reg) Campbell of Fort Smith, N.W.T.

Mrs. Helen (James) Huppie of Two Hills.

Mrs. Joan (Dee) Higgins of Surry, B.C.

Mrs. Noreen (Arnold) Henderson of Aldergrove, B.C.

Mr. James E. Hunter of Saddle Lake.

James is farming 1,400 acres of land and raising Hereford cattle and 80 head of horses which include Belgians, Percherons, saddle horses and race ponies. James enters local parades to advertise Hunter Farms. Placed third in the Two Hills Parade — horse division. James has 2 daughters and three sons — Anne and Cathy — Greg, Tony and Jeremy.

Mr. and Mrs. George Hunter celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on Alberta's 75th Birthday.

JOHN HUTCHINSON

by Ruby Hutchinson

Mr. and Mrs. John Hutchinson came to Alberta in 1907, from Perry Sound District in Ontario. They homesteaded in the Lafond area in 1908 with their son Percy and two daughters.

Percy married Elizabeth Jane West of Dublin, Ireland, in December 1912 and they homesteaded in Chesterville area. She was a teacher and was teaching in Big Fish School. She taught in Brush Hill, near Vegreville, when she arrived in 1911.

Percy had driven the mail stage from St. Paul to Lamont. He told many stories of these trips. Once a thunder storm came up frightened his team. They took off across the prairie with the thunder crashing and lightning flashing. One of his passengers had never been out west before and when the trip was over, he asked how often this happened. Percy

said, "Almost everyday and usually the storms are worse." He had a passenger on his return trip.

One late November, he had a lady passenger who was very sick and insisted on going to Lamont. The river was running with ice and although it was terribly cold there was no snow. The ferry man did not want to cross but the husband insisted. Finally they got the horses on and all the way across the lady screamed and cried, the husband shouted, and the horses were frantic. He decided that he should find an easier job, so he went homesteading.

For Jennie to become a homesteader's wife was a great change from being a teacher in a girls' residential school in Dublin. She had never seen a large field of grain nor seen the kind of heaters and cook stoves used here. In Dublin everything was delivered to the door, the butcher, the baker, the fishmonger and the green grocer came every day and the store was just at the corner. Learning to keep house, grow a garden and raise poultry was a great challenge. She often talked about her bread baking, causing many laughs among her neighbors.

She learned to drive a horse but would never ride one. One spring day, she broke through the ice on her way home from school. She was certain she and her horse would drown, until Mr. Cunningham came to her rescue.

There were several children in the homestead area but no school. In 1915, she and Jack Chester worked hard to form the Chesterville School District and she was the first teacher. She taught at other schools in the area also, when a substitute was needed and was secretary for three school districts.

Four children were born: Reginald, Cecil, Gerald and Louisa. Tragedy struck the family in October 1918. Their house burned and Gerald was lost. Reggie died a short while later from the flu. The winter of 1918-19 was a heart breaking one. They had to establish a new home, furnish it and reconcile themselves to the loss of two sons. The flu epidemic hit the area and times were hard.

In the spring of 1919 Percy bought a feed and livery stable in Ranfurly and they moved in late summer. Three more children were born there: Jack, William (Pat) and Jim. Percy passed away in November 1962 after selling his livery barn. He is buried in Ranfurly.

Jeannie lived in Ranfurly until September 1975 when she went to live in the Vialta Lodge in Viking, Alberta. She remained there until her passing in March 1979 at the age of 96 and is buried in Ranfurly.

One of the happy moments of her life was the presentation of a rocking chair in her honor to the Viking Lodge by the Chesterville Reunion Committee.

Cecil (Joe), the second oldest child of Percy and Jeannie lives in Ranfurly with his wife Ruby. He and his son Lawrence manufacture and rent post ham-

mers. Two other sons Gordon and Ray live in Vancouver and a daughter Louise who has one son Jerry, is in Prince George and another daughter Shirley in Red Deer. Louisa (Hutchinson) Mueller lives at Sinclair Mills, B.C. with her husband Ray who worked in the logging industry and is now in the Prince George area except Bob who lives in Hawaii. Jack works at Frazer Lake, B.C., Pat works in construction in the Prince George area, and Jim passed away in 1968.

NICK AND FATIMA JACURA

by Mary Jacura

Mr. and Mrs. Nick Jacura came to Foisy district in 1924 where they farmed N.W. 16-57-11-4, S.W. 6-57-11-4 till 1948 then moved to Edmonton. They had a family of nine. Living are Mike of St. Paul, Rose Kowalchuk of Edmonton, Dorothy married to Francis Purshke of Lamont, Lucy married to Alex Leonte of Myrnam. Their son Andrew passed away in 1978 at the age of 49. His lovely wife Mary and family of six, four of whom live in Edmonton, while Joan is in Vancouver, and Audrey in Ontario. Mr. and Mrs. Jacura have 14 grandchildren and 17 great grandchildren. Nick passed away in 1966 at the age of 66. Mrs. Fatima Jacura, now 84 years old, is in Lamont hospital at the present time, a diabetic patient.

MIKE AND MARY JACURA

by Mary Jacura

Mike bought his dad's farm in Foisy namely S.W. 6-57-11-4 in 1953 and had a quarter of land of his own which was lately sold to Jimmie Kupchenko and Jimmie Twerdoclib. He still loves farming and also works at the R.C.M.P. Barracks in St. Paul as a guard.

Mary works at Saan's Store in St. Paul, loves gardening and was active in 4-H Garden Club. She was also secretary for 3 years with the F.U.A. and F.W.U.A. Champlain Local.

Mike and Mary were married on May 15, 1941 in the United Church in Lavoy which was a double



Mike Jacura's mother (Fatima)
84 years of age, Aug. 1980.



Mike, Steve, Nick, and Fatima Jacura, Rosie, Dorothy and baby Lucy — 1928.

wedding. Her sister Rose married Andrew Fedoruk. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Robert H. Wood.

Mike and Mary have five children:

- 1) Victoria born June 2nd, 1942 in the St. Paul hospital, married Rod Hebert and they have a beautiful set up at their St. Vincent's farm. They have a family of six, Victoria had her grade 12, was 4-H club member for 8 years in garden and 1 year in beef.
- 2) Rita was born February 21st, 1944 at home at Foisy on a blizzard day so we had no choice but



Parents of Mrs. Mike Jacura — Steve and Veronica Sherstianka and 2 granddaughters Vic and Rita.



The Jacura family — Valerie, Rita, Vicky, Mary and Mike Jacura, Barbara and Roy.

stay home. She married Rolland Renault. They have a family of two and are owners of St. Brides Store. Rita has graduated as a certified nursing-aide in Edmonton, was 4-H Garden Club Member, also in the beef club.

- 3) Barbara Anna was a Christmas baby born December 23, 1947 in Two Hills hospital. She married Michael Sydora of Gibbons and he works at Truck-All Dispatcher. They have a family of three. Barbara graduated from grade 12 in Two Hills where she attended school. She was a 4-H club member for five years.
- 4) Valerie was born June 2, 1950 in Two Hills hospital. She married Edward Sydora. They have a family of four. They farm in the St. Brides area, he is also a mechanic at Smyl Motors in St. Paul. Valerie was a 4-H Garden Club Member for 5 years.
- 5) Roy Gorvin was born June 28, 1960, graduated at St. Paul Regional High School. He now has three years of apprenticeship in autobody work and has completed his third year at NAIT, he is working at Smyl Motors in his chosen field of work and specialized in painting the repaired vehicles. With a few more hours of experience and another session at NAIT, probably in 1981, he will be a fully licenced autobody man.

MICHELE AND IRENE JALLOT

submitted by Therese Chester

Michele Jallot was born in Chantilly, France, July 19, 1909, the son of Henri Jallot and Julia Simon.

In 1910, Michele came to Canada with his grandparents, Gustave Simon and Clementine Caquinault. They left their home in St. George DeRex, France, to homestead in Beauvallon, Alberta.



On the farm in Chesterville Irene and Michele Jallot sitting on each side of Irene's mother, Mrs. Marie-Louise Simon who was then 40 years old.

In 1911, Michele's parents and his new baby sister Rachel came to Canada. They made their home in Duvernay, Alberta. For the next two years, Mr. Jallot was Duvernay's post master.

In 1912, Michele got a new baby brother; they named him Raphael. He had a very short life and died when he was eight months old. In 1913, a few months later the mother died. They were both laid to rest in the Brosseau grave yard.

After placing his two children, Michele and Rachel in the Lacombe Orphanage in Midnapore, Mr. Jallot returned to France. For the next ten years Michele stayed in the home, he said it wasn't such a bad place. The Sisters of Providence were good to him.

At the age of 14, Mr. and Mrs. McBride, an Irish Catholic couple, farming just outside of Youngstown took Mickey in. He had several happy years with his foster parents.

In 1931, he came to Lafond, Alberta, to be with his uncle Alphonse Simon, farming in the Chesterville district. There he filed a homestead $\frac{1}{2}$ mile south of the Simon farm.

January 26th, 1932, Michele married Irene Ouellet. They were married in Lafond by Father Boucher.

Irene was born in Duvernay, Alta. July 1st, 1912. She was the first daughter of Eugene Ouellet and Marie-Louise Lapierre.

In 1942, Michele and Irene left the farm and moved to New Westminster, where they still live at



Front row: Irene, Michele Jallot. Back row: their son Raphael and his wife Pat.

the present time. Mickey worked in a lumber mill until his time of retirement.

Mickey and Irene adopted a baby boy, July 27, 1944. They're very proud of their chosen son. Like his father he works in a lumber mill. June 7, 1968 he married Patricia Francis. They reside in Surrey, B.C. Michele and Irene will celebrate their 50th anniversary on January, 26th, 1982.

THE MARVIN JASSMAN FAMILY

by Louise Jassman

Our family came to St. Brides area in June, 1975. We had been wanting to get away from the city life for several years, but didn't know quite where we should go.

In the summer of 1974, a friend of ours, James Raymond, who lived here for several years as a child, asked us to accompany his family on a tour of this area. We were very impressed with this part of Alberta, and several more trips back here, finally buying Harry and Pearl Fodchuk's farm in September, 1974.

Marvin was born in Leader, Sask. Later the family moved to Three Hills, Alberta, where his father worked in the coal mines until closure.

Marvin completed his education in Three Hills, then moved to Calgary, where he took his plumbing apprenticeship.

I was born and raised in Coaldale, Alberta, where we had a small market garden, moving to

Calgary when we got married.

Our five children Gail, Rod, Derek, Russell and Wendy were all born in Calgary. Gail is married and living in Calgary. Rod is presently working out of Calgary as a permitting agent. Derek graduated from St. Paul Regional in 1980, and is working at Michner Centre in Red Deer planning a career in rehabilitation counselling. Russel is in grade ten at St. Paul Regional, and Wendy is in grade eight, Glen Avon School.

AURELE JEAN

by Denise Jean

Aurele Jean, son of Hector Jean and Bernice Cartier was born on February 9, 1944.

Aurele attended Lafond School. Since he always enjoyed working on the farm, he decided to be a farmer.

I, Denise daughter of Wilfrid Desaulniers and Julianna Journault, was born September 24, 1947. I also received my schooling in Lafond. Dad had always told me that when I would turn sixteen, I would stop school and help on the farm, and that is what I did. One fall afternoon, September 7, 1963, Dad was combining, so I went out to bring lunch



Aurele Jean Family: Ronald, Aurele, Lorraine, seated Denise.



Bucket elevator grain handling system and grain dryer on Aurele Jean's farm — 1972.

to the men in the field. Instead of taking the car, I decided to take the tractor and cut across the field to make it a shorter trip. After the men were finished with their lunch, I left but took the road to go home. Since there was a very steep hill to climb, I put the tractor on high gear thinking I would make it more easily. What happened is that three-quarters of the way up, I powered out and I tried to change gears, but soon found out I had no brakes. Instead of jumping down, I tried to steer the tractor down the hill backwards. By now, I was free wheeling and picking up speed. I went down a thirty foot embankment and got run over by the tractor. The next thing that came to my mind was to climb the embankment so somebody would see me. Down there, the tractor was invisible from the road. I finally made it to the side of the road, and lay there, exhausted and semi-conscious. Ray Lafreniere was hauling grain for Dad, found me on the side of the road and hurried to the field to get dad who rushed me to St. Theresa Hospital. After being examined by Dr. Decosse, he said I had to be sent to University Hospital, after a couple of blood transfusions, Dr. Decosse took no chance and accompanied me in the ambulance as he was giving me another transfusion, on the way to Edmonton. I was in the University Hospital for nearly one month, with broken ribs on one side, a punctured lung and internal injuries. The doctor had to perform a tracheotomy in order to save me. I was on the critical list for 10 days. But I lived, thanks to the quick action of Dr. Decosse and the volunteer blood donors. I feel no bad after effects of this terrible ordeal, due mostly to my inexperience in driving.

In 1964, I went to work as cashier at the Brosseau Department Store in St. Paul. On August 14, 1965 Aurele Jean and I, Denise Desaulniers were married.



Aurele and Denise Jean's new home built in 1978.

Being the youngest boy of the family, Aurele bought his dad's land, the home place being S.W. 29-57-1, his herd of dairy cattle, and also two other quarters. Aurele and Lionel each became half owners of all the machinery. Aurele's dad kept a half-section of land which two boys, Aurele and Lionel had to farm, so they formed a company and called it Jean's Dale Farm.

On May 8, 1966, Ronald Hector, our son, was born and on June 8, 1966, Aurele's dad passed away suddenly of a heart attack.

In 1969, Lionel decided to leave the farm with his family, to go to work in Kitimat, B.C. This left us undecided if we should rent his land or go bigger in dairy farming.

On March 11, 1969, Aurele made a dispersal sale and sold 29 head of registered dairy cattle and rented his brother's land.

On March 29, 1969 our daughter Lorraine Juliana was born.

In 1972, we bought bigger machinery and rented for six years, Arge and Annette Gagne's three quarters of land. In 1973, we built a Butler Farm Shed and work shop, which made it easier to work and repair the machinery.

After a number of years, Aurele decided to burn the barn as we were not using it and built a fully automated bucket elevator to handle the grain more easily.

In 1978, we built a new home in the same spot as the old one had been. Mrs. Martha Haggens from Therien bought our old house and she had it moved behind the school in Mallaig.

In the spring of 1979, Aurele installed a fully Automatic Vertex grain dryer, attached to our grain system. This was to try and beat the weather, which sure has helped in the last two falls we've had it.

In the fall of 1980, we bought a new 4840 tractor (185 horse power) and a new 7720 self propelled combine, hopefully to get on time for 1981 crop.

Besides farming, Aurele enjoys big game hunting. His first hunting trip was in 1964 when Aurele, Robert Robinson and Bertran Morin went to Edson and came home with an elk, and a deer. Aurele had made this a fall habit and enjoys every minute of it. In 1972, Aurele and his partner Lionel Gagne, came

up on two buck deer fighting together. They shot one and the other had to be shot also as their horns were locked. Aurele treasures his mounted trophy which is prominently displayed in the family room.

Ronald is now 14 years old and in grade nine. He also enjoys trapping and hunting with his father. Last summer he started driving the tractor and did all the summerfallow. Last fall, he worked all the stubble field after school and on weekends. He is also active in hockey.

Lorraine is 11 years old and in grade seven. She enjoys music and ski-dooing. She also helps mom with the housework.

THE BASILE JEAN STORY

Basile Jean was born November 15, 1879 at St. Arsene, Rimouski, Province of Quebec, son of François Jean and Georgina Coté. He married Alice Dumont, daughter of Jean-Baptiste Dumont and Victoria Rouleau, on February 9, 1904, in L'Isle Verte. In June 1908, they left by train with their two young daughters for Vegreville. From Vegreville, it took 4 days with oxen and wagon to come to St. Paul. They then made their home in Lafond. They took a homestead there, land N.W. 16-57-10-4. Their third child, a son was born only three months after they arrived here.



Barn built by Basile Jean on his homestead. Ovila Jean, Albert Tremblay, and Leopold Jean.

Starting from nothing, they built a log house, which had only dirt for a floor. Surrounding the house was mostly bush. They had a few cows which they milked.

Later, Basile started to do some carpenter work in the neighborhood. Basile and Alice had the opportunity to go back to their old home in Quebec for one month, to visit their parents in February, 1929. Alice Jean passed away on September 20, 1936. After his sons were old enough to take care of the farm, Basile left for B.C. There he worked as a carpenter in New Westminster. He came back in 1954, to live around St. Paul permanently. He lived



Basile Jean Family with children, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law and grandchildren.



Basile Jean and Maurice Jean putting shingles on Basile Jean's barn on Homestead in approximately 1920.



Basile Jean with grandson, Denis.
In background Basile's house, picture taken in 1945.



Family picture of Mr. and Mrs. Basile Jean taken in 1928. Back row left to right: standing: Ovila, Julianne, Hector, and Doria. Front row standing: Maurice; sitting Basile Jean on his knees and Helena; standing is Lorette; sitting is Alice Jean with Antoine on her knees; standing: Thérèse and missing are Leopold and Adrien.

at his former home with his son, Maurice, and family. Basile passed away in April, 1957 at the age of 77 years.

Their twelve children were:

Julienne born April 26, 1905, married Oscar Malo, had ten children and now lives in St. Paul.
Doria born September 7, 1906, married Henri Charron, had seven children and lives in St. Paul.

Ovila Jean born September 22, 1908, married Rose Tremblay. They had eleven children. He passed away July 10, 1973 in Edmonton.

Hector born August 22, 1910, married Bernice Cartier. They had six children. He passed away June 8, 1966 in St. Paul.

Leopold born November 29, 1912, passed away in November 25, 1936, aged 24 years.

Marie died a few days after birth.

Laurette born September 28, 1917, married Floris Looy, had seven children, lives in St. Paul.

Maurice born December 11, 1919 married Hélène Cartier, had eight children, passed away



Basile Jean 25 yrs. Alice Dumont 19 yrs. Taken in 1904.

August 4, 1980 in St. Paul.

Thérèse born December 19, 1921, lives in Edmonton.

Hélène born February 8, 1924, married Jean-Paul Fontaine, had eleven children, lives in St. Paul.

Antoine born June 12, 1925 married Patricia Dormon, had three children, passed away March 17, 1979 in San Francisco.

Adrien born March 29, 1928, passed away on July 22, 1955, aged 27 years.

THE CLÉMENT JEAN STORY

by Clément Jean

Clément, fifth son of Maurice and Helene Jean (née Cartier) was born on April 19, 1952 in the St. Paul Hospital. He attended school in Lafond from 1958 to 1967. After leaving school he farmed with his father until he bought 2½ quarters of his own in 1974, this could not have happened without his father's help. He kept on farming with his dad.

Then on June 14, 1975, he married Georgette Langevin, daughter of Thomas Langevin and Gracia Tardif of St. Vincent. Georgette was born on February 23, 1955, the tenth child of a family of twelve children. She was raised on a farm in St. Vincent. In 1961 she began attending school in St. Vincent and continued for 4 years until the school closed down. Then she moved to Mallaig School in 1965 and attended school there until 1973 graduation. Then she got a job at the Credit Union in St. Paul and worked there until her marriage in 1975.

Clément and Georgette bought a trailer and lived in it for two years. It was located on N.W. 16-57-10-4. Then his father retired in St. Paul.

On May 31, 1977 our first daughter, Colette was born. Our second daughter, Pauline, came to us on February 16, 1979. Our third child is a boy, David, born February 12, 1981.



Clément Jean Family Picture taken Christmas — 1979. Back row: Georgette and Clément. Front row: Colette and Pauline, baby David is missing.



Clément swathing wheat in 1979.

Clément is now serving on the Lafond Credit Union Board of Directors and has been doing so for seven years. We are now full fledged farmers with a son to carry on the tradition on the great grandfather's homestead. Part of our leisure time is spent playing baseball and curling, but most of it is spent at home, enjoying our family.

CONRAD JEAN AND FAMILY

by Conrad

I was born on March 14, 1947, the third son of Maurice and Helene Jean. I was a normal baby till the age of 10 months, when I came down with polio which left my left leg completely paralyzed, at which time I was in and out of the hospitals for one year. I started school when I was six, then I had my first experience with a long leg brace, which I could not get used to and so finally discarded. I was fitted with a short brace which enabled me to play hockey and all other sports. Due to the fact that I only had one good leg, I did the occasional walking on my hands.

As I became older, I worked on the farm with my brothers including picking rocks and roots, also on threshing crews. After completing grade 12, I graduated from High School in Lafond. I stayed on the farm till I was 23 years of age.

I left the farm and was married to Sheila Quinn on June 30, 1971. My first job was at Macleods Store in St. Paul, where I worked for five years. Our first son, René, was born April 1, 1972. After René was born, we lived on an acreage for 2½ years. Then our second son Daniel was born on March 4, 1975. We then moved to St. Paul and bought a mobile home. In August of 1976, I left Macleods to take employment with CCIL. There I worked as a partsman for two years. At this time, I became ill with a rare



The Conrad Jean Family; standing — back row is Sheila and René.
Front row: Daniel, Conrad with daughter Lisa on his knees.

kidney disease which forced me to find a bookkeeping job at Letourneau Farm Supplies in August, 1978. By this time our daughter, Lisa was already 3 months old, having been born May 27, 1978.

At first the doctors were unable to find the problem with me. I spent three weeks at the U of A Hospital at which time tests were performed to determine the nature of my illness.

After having received treatment for about one year my condition has improved.

Also, I have been doing janitor work at the RCMP Station for the past five years. Even with my two jobs I have found time to do quite a bit of curling. I was a member of the winning team on two occasions. We won the Pine Spiel in St. Paul in 1969 and 1972. I also have won the third event on 2 occasions and the fourth event on one occasion. I have won approximately 25 trophies in sixteen years of curling. This is my first year out of curling, the reason is that I have two boys playing hockey. If they have as much interest as I had, they should succeed in any sport that they choose.

I am presently the service manager at Letourneau Farm Supplies.

We have recently built a new home across the road from where I was raised. As a family, we are enjoying our lives in the country once again.

All our friends are very welcome to drop in anytime.

HECTOR JEAN FAMILY (NEE CARTIER)

by Bernice Taylor

Hector the fourth child born to Basil Jean and Alice Dumont on Aug. 22, 1910 on the farmstead, was attended by a midwife, Mrs. Laframboise, in a native fashion. He went to school for 8 years at Cartier school and grade IX at St. John's College, Edmonton. He then quit to help with the farm work and soon started working for others. For seven or eight years, he went to help with the harvest in Saskatchewan and came back on time to do their harvesting here.

I, Bernice Cartier, daughter of Joseph Cartier and Julie Norman, was born October 15, 1915 in Wetaskiwin. I moved to St. Paul at the age of five, with my parents to a quarter section of land with 20 acres under cultivation. I started school at seven years of age, and I had three miles to go to Belzil School which I attended until I was fifteen years old, missing many days to help my parents. At eighteen years of age, I started to work for Henry Charron, where I first met Hector Jean. A year later we were married on July 2, 1935, by Father Paul Charron, assisted by Father Larose in the Parish of St. Paul, Alberta. We had a wedding dinner at Mr. and Mrs. Basil Jean in Lafond, attended by 60 to 80 people. A few pictures were taken in the afternoon. We then motored to the Cartier farmstead for supper and the dance which was enjoyed by all. (No honeymoon). Then we went to our own little dwelling place, a small addition to a garage on Mr. Basil Jean's place. A few days later, we picked up my belongings and our gifts. My dad gave us a sow, and a good milk cow to add to Hector's three, along with four work horses and one driving mare and buggy. We started out our married life working along with his father for the first few years.

In the spring of 1936, with the backing of his father, we bought the S.W. quarter of the school section 29-57-10-4 from Mr. Louis Belland, for \$2,800.00. There were 120 acres under cultivation which he had broken in the past two years. There were no permanent buildings, only two granaries. Our first son Alcide was born on April 16, 1936, I was in the hospital when I signed the papers for the farm. Hector seeded all the cultivated land and in July proceeded to dig a 4 x 4 well and struck water at twelve ft. Then he started the frame of a barn with 3" x 6" lumber, sawn at a mill up north, the previous winter. He had the help of his father, who was a good carpenter. They only got the walls up. There was no money for a roof, so Hector filled it with hay. For about three years we still stayed at his father's. Hector went to the bush and made some more

lumber sawn at Rochleau's Sawmill and freighted it with a sleigh and a team of horses.

In the summer of 1937, we lived in two granaries and started to construct an eight-room house. We moved on December 8, 1937 to an unfinished interior. Hector and I put up the wooden laths all winter long, getting the walls ready for plastering. The house was then wired for electricity by Father Mailloux. Hector's father, Mr. Basil Jean, made all the windows and helped build the house. In two years, we had the lower part plastered. It made a very nice home.

The following spring, Hector started to build a pigpen. By that time, our brood sow had had two litters of pigs. I would drive the horse and buggy to St. Paul with a 5-gallon can of cream, worth \$3.00 at that time and that was to buy groceries. Our milking herd had increased by then, so the cream money kept us supplied. In 1938 Hector bought a Model T Ford, second-hand for \$200.00. About that time our second child, a girl, Solange was born on July 29, 1938. All these years, we cultivated some with horses and also a tractor, which ran the threshing machine in the fall. Thank God, Hector and I were not afraid of work as there was plenty to do. In 1939 or 40 we bought another quarter, Urbain Lafond's,



Hector Jean and Bernice Cartier — Wedding picture — July 2, 1935
in St. Paul, Alta.

and started buying some small machinery of our own. The price of pigs, grain and cream started to rise a bit. Hector would still go north to make more lumber. Now a chicken coop and garage were added. That year we were partly hauled out.

Our third child, a son, Raymond was born, March 5, 1941. In the summer months we built a veranda and put brick siding on the outside of the house. On June 25, 1942, a fourth child, a son, Lionel arrived.

In September 1942, Alcide started to attend Cartier School, picked up by a neighbor's boy who drove to school. My health was not so good, I had to hire a girl to help out with the work. In the summer of 1943, I went on a two-week holiday with Solange to visit my folks, Mr. and Mrs. Jos Cartier in New Westminster. While there, Hector phoned and informed me that we had gotten the electric power. We were the first ones in the area to have electricity. On February 9, 1944, we were blessed with another boy, Aurele. By this time I needed a steady hired girl. Antoinette Guindon worked for us for over a year.

During the next few years, prices were on the rise, during the war and better after. We decided to purchase a purebred laying flock of hens to supply St. Paul Hatchery, with eggs. We had started to buy purebred holstein milking cows. We remodelled the interior of the barn and installed milking machines, providing accommodation for our dairy herd of twenty cows. By this time the older children were doing a lot of the chores. A great thanks to them, because I would have never made it. Things were prospering. Hector traded his tractor for a bigger one. Solange was now ready for school.

The children had a Shetland Pony which we trained to pull a small cart in summer and a toboggan, in winter. Sometimes, she would tip them off and run home.

When I was expecting our sixth child, we decided to remodel the house, by the addition of a kitchen with a cistern underground. Water was brought in the sinks and bathroom. How great to have water at the tap. Hector did most of the work with the help of a hired hand, Edmond Coté. On July 26, 1947 we were blessed with a little girl, Annette.

Hector was elected as a school board trustee of the St. Paul School Division, and centralization began. A bigger school was built in Lafond, grades 1-12. Our parish priest was Father Mailloux. Our children were all bussed to school. Alcide went to St. John's College in Edmonton for one year. He decided that that life was not for him, so he stayed home working for his dad and for others. We then bought the old Coté place, a half-section, from Henry Foisy. Then we needed more and bigger machinery so we got our first pull type combine.

Hector worked for eight years on the school



The Hector Jean Family: Alcide, Solange, Raymond, Lionel, Aurele and Annette in 1949.

board. When it became amalgamated with the county, he gave it up. The people of Cartier, bought the old school and turned it into a Community Hall. Dances and wedding parties were held there. Solange went for one year to Fort Kent Convent. After that she was working at Brosseau's Store in St. Paul, then at Car Ouell's Construction. She was married to Alex Blanchette on July 13, 1957 and lived in St. Paul. On April 4, 1959, Alcide decided to do the same and he was married to Lucie Couture of Edmonton. In July 1960, the children and friends celebrated our Silver Wedding Anniversary in Cartier Community Hall. Around that time Hector traded the pull type combine for a self propelled one for \$12,000.00. We did some custom work to help pay for it.

Raymond finished his Grade XII in Lafond and took a commercial accounting course at Alberta College in 1959.

Now it seemed that we were left with the two younger boys, which quickly learned how to farm. Lionel left school at sixteen to work with his father, and Aurele followed in two years. They both became good farmers. Hector began to take it a little easier. He was bothered with a form of rheumatism, and was sick at times. In July 4, 1964, Lionel was married to Berthe Langevin. We helped him to establish himself on the two last quarters we had bought, working as a co-op farm. Annette finished her Grade XII in Lafond and went working for A.G.T. in St. Paul. By this time it seemed like it was about time to take life a little easier.

We had a house built on a lot we had in St. Paul. We sold the farmstead to Aurele. He and Denise Desaulniers were married on August 14, 1965. Our house was ready in November of the same year. After getting all moved in, we took a trip to Chilliwack to spend Christmas with Solange and Alex

Blanchette and family. We had a nice holiday.

We spent the winter loafing around. I got a part time job at the Co-op Store Bakery.

In the spring Hector was helping the boys with the spring work. On June 5, he had a heart attack and passed away three days later June 8, 1966, leaving his wife, children and eight grandchildren.

JOSEPH JEAN

by his daughter Jeanne (Sr. Marie Solange)

My father, Joseph Jean was born in St. Octave, P.Q. and my mother at St. Damase, near Remouski, P.Q. After their marriage, they came out West and settled on a farm in the Duvernay area in 1905 or 1906.

My mother died in 1918, in the Vegreville hospital, at the age of 33. I was cared for by my godparents, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Gaulin. They moved from Duvernay to Morinville, where I received all my schooling. The teachers were nuns of the order of "Les Filles de Jesus". When I had completed my schooling, I entered their noviciate in Trois Rivières and later took my vows. I am now in Edmonton at the Mother House.

In 1919 my father with my brother Eugene who was then ten years old, settled on a farm, approximately two miles west of the village of Lafond. He farmed there until 1940, when he sold this land to Ovila Jean. He lived in the Lafond area, then in St. Paul for some years. He spent a few years at Foyer Youville in St. Albert. My father passed away on December 28, 1953 at the age of 75 years. He was buried in St. Albert. My brother Eugene lives in Quesnel, B.C. and is still single.



Mrs. Angelina Gaulin, Jeanne Jean, Joseph Jean (my father), Eugene Jean and George Gaulin.

LIONEL JEAN AND FAMILY

by Lionel Jean

I, Lionel Jean, son of Hector and Bernice Jean, left the family home on July 4th, 1964 when I was married to Berthe Langevin. We established ourselves on a farm on the S.W. 28-57-10-4 half section, which was one mile east of our dad's place.

Aurèle and I bought our Dad's machineries and formed a joint ownership.

In July 1965, Gisèle was born. We just about lost her because of our water; no baby could drink that water until one year old because it would take all the oxygen out of its body and would die. We were lucky we saved her. The following year we had another daughter, Angèle was born July 14th, 1966. Then 2 years later on September 6, 1968, Diane was born.

We were living in a two-room house sixteen feet by twenty feet. We had to build, it was just too small for the five of us. We applied for a loan but we were refused.

In February, 1969, we had this opportunity to buy a gravel truck and work with Alcide Jean and Alex Blanchette but that meant moving to Kitimat, B.C., so we sold our stock and rented our land to Aurèle for a few years, then he bought it.



The Lionel Jean Family — Front row: Diane, Cindy on Berthe's knees, Centre: Gisèle, Angèle, Lionel.



Lionel Jean with his gravel truck, used both in making logging roads and in hauling gravel in Kitimat, B.C.

Today, 1981, we have four daughters which we are proud of. Cindy was born April 25th, 1973. We are still in the same business and in Kitimat, British Columbia.

THE MAURICE JEAN STORY

by Clément Jean

Maurice, son of Basile Jean and Alice Dumont was born December 11, 1919. He started his education at Cartier School and attended there till grade eight. Then he went to the Jesuit College in 1933. He spent the next three years there, after which he came back home to resume farming with his brothers. A few years later came the building of a new house. The entire basement was dug by hand, the dirt being hauled out with a team of horses. It took a few long years of hard work but finally the end was seen in 1941.

In 1943, on July 5, Maurice married Hélène Cartier, daughter of Joe Cartier and Julie Norman. Hélène was born December 28, 1918. She was raised on a farm near St. Paul, received her education at Belzil School until grade eight. She then got a job as housekeeper and worked until her marriage in 1943.

The wedding took place at the Lafond Church and was celebrated by Reverend Paul Mailloux. There was a wedding breakfast held at the groom's home and immediately after, the couple left on their honeymoon to Calgary and Banff. On their return there was a reception held at Mr. Philias Jean's home.

In the following year, Maurice bought the homestead N.W. 16-57-10-4, from his father. He had a threshing machine and did a lot of threshing for the neighbors. Later in 1953, the power was brought in to the farm.



Maurice Jean Family — Back row: Clément, Denis, Conrad, Emile, and Robert. Front row: Germaine, Maurice, Lucille, Helene, Louise. Picture taken at Oscar Malo's on New Year's Day, 1966.

Maurice and Hélène were always involved in community activities. When Cartier School was converted into a hall they were shareholders in this community centre.

They helped organize dances to pay for the hall. They helped prepare the lunch and made the coffee at their house, until the hall had its own power. Maurice also served on the Lafond School Board

and was a member of the Lafond Credit Union Board of directors.

Their children celebrated their 30th. wedding anniversary on June 16th., 1973 in St. Paul.

Hélène Jean (née Cartier) passed away June 23, 1973 at the age of 54.

Maurice kept farming until 1977, at which time he sold his land to his son, Clément, and retired. He spent the remaining time of his life in St. Paul.

Maurice enjoyed curling and baseball. He was also very fond of horseshoes. Today there is a memorial trophy in the St. Paul Annual Horse Shoe Tournament in his honour.

Maurice Jean passed away on August 4, 1980 at the age of 60 years.

Maurice and Hélène had eight children, they are:

Denis: born April 24, 1944, married Claire Fontaine July 20, 1968, has two daughters, is still in the



Wedding Picture of Maurice Jean and Hélène Cartier, Father Paul Mailloux standing in the center.



Maurice Jean's first tractor "Cockshutt 40".

navy and is living in Aldergrove, B.C.

Emile born March 31, 1945 married Angèle Roberge, July 22, 1972 has four sons and is farming in Lafond area.

Conrad born March 14, 1947 married Sheila Quinn June 30, 1971 has two sons and one daughter, works at John Deere dealer in St. Paul and lives in Lafond.

Robert born March 20, 1949 married Jeanne Langevin July 3, 1971, has one daughter and two sons, works at John Deere dealer in St. Paul and lives in St. Paul.

Clément born April 19, 1952 married Georgette Langevin June 14, 1975, has two daughters and one son, farming in Lafond area.

Louise born March 23, 1954 married Gerald Penner August 31, 1974 lives in Sexsmith, Alberta.

Germaine born February 18, 1957 married Richard Hughes, March 10, 1979 has 2 daughters and lives in Grande Prairie.

Lucille born November 21, 1958, lives in Sexsmith, Alberta.

OVILA AND ROSE JEAN FAMILY

by the family

On September 22, 1908, Ovila Oscar Jean, the eldest son, was born to Basile and Alice Dumont, who had arrived in the Lafond district from L'Île Verte, Quebec earlier that same year. Ovila had two older sisters, five younger brothers and three younger sisters.

Later he courted and married Rose Marguerite Tremblay, daughter of Clarise Tremblay and Arthemise Lavoie. They were married on October 22, 1935 in the new Lafond church. The marriage was blessed by Reverend Father Paul Mailloux. Their first home was the Bolduc homestead (S.E. 21-57-10-W4). During the next five years three daughters were born, namely; Jeanne D'Arc, Alice, and Aline. In 1940, they bought the Joseph Jean homestead west of Lafond (N.W. 36-56-11-W4). There, they resided till their retirement in May 1968 when they moved to Edmonton.

In 1941, a new house was built to help accommodate the eight more children that were to come. The fourth daughter Yvette, was the first to be born on the new farm. She was followed two years later by an unexpected set of twins, Henri and Henriette. They arrived at the end of March, 1943. There was a big snowstorm which made it impossible to travel to the hospital in St. Paul, therefore Ovila had to get the closest mid-wife, Mrs. Skakun, a dear Ukrainian friend. Unfortunately she spoke only Ukrainian and Rose only French, so sign language had to be used. Rose finally understood that two babies were coming instead of one. What a great surprise to Ovila when finally his first son Henri arrived. He couldn't



Ovila and Rose Jean, wedding picture.

help but comment, "Don't tell me a girl had to come with him."

Rose went on to tell the children that difficult times had arrived and while Ovila was busy in the field to break the land, she had no choice but to learn how to kill a chicken. She'd go to the coop with a gun. At first, her marksmanship was so poor, she would aim for one and the adjacent chicken would drop dead. At least food got to the table. Later on, Rose learned that it was easier to behead the chicken with an axe and it didn't take as long once she got good at it.

Rose was very well known for the best angel food cake in the district and it sure didn't take her long to roll out 15 pie crusts, made with delicious farm fresh cream. Time consumed in preparing all that food was very important to 13 hungry mouths. We can still remember the three big batches of hot fresh bread done weekly, "Mm, Mm, good!" Ovila would say, "with strawberry jam and fresh cream, what a delight!"

The four older children had two miles to walk to the Lafond school till school buses were introduced in the early 50's.

Ovila was the best wild berry picker in the family. It didn't take long for him and his family to



Family picture — 1956 — First row: Jules, Rose, Pauline, Marcel, Cecile, Ovila. Back row: Juliette, Yvette, Alice, Jeanne D'Arc, Aline, Henriette, Henri.

fill several cream cans of blueberries, saskatoons, and such. Berry picking was quite a holiday in the wild bushes and we couldn't ask for a more peaceful time.

Rose was very talented in sewing most of the children's clothes and especially in making patch work quilts. Grandmother Tremblay kept us very well supplied with homemade scarves, toques, mittens and woolen socks. Rose's favorite hobby was her crochet work and she made many tablecloths, bedspreads, and all sorts of doilies which she later sold to help with the cost of the education of the children and also gave many away.

To the great excitement of the family, in 1947 Ovila purchased his very first car, a 1946 Chevrolet. Wow! Now we could get places faster, but we remember taking turns on Sunday to visit our grandparents splitting the family in half so as not to overload the car. But mind you at Christmas there was room for all 13 of us to go to midnight mass and visit relatives.

In 1949, running water and a sewer system were installed in our farm home. What a luxury for Rose as laundry was done at least twice a week.

In 1952, with the help of two hired hands and

good neighbors a big barn was built to accommodate the dairy herd of 25 cows. The same year the youngest son, Marcel was born.

Ovila passed away of a heart attack at 64 years of age on July 10, 1973.

Presently, Rose is residing at the Youville Nursing Home in St. Albert.

Jeanne D'Arc, the eldest daughter married Gabriel Giroux. They have three daughters: Louise, (Mrs. Terry Thomas) and the twins Lucie and Lucille. They all live in Edmonton.

Alice, R.N. is the Head Nurse Supervisor in the Intensive Care Unit Pediatrics at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton.

Aline, a well known and talented seamstress is saleslady at the Elna Sewing Centre in Edmonton.

Yvette, married Maurice J. Noel. They have four children: Nicole, Marc (first grandson to be born), Luc, and Natalie. They reside in St. Paul.

Henri, married Darlene Smith and they have three daughters: Jacintha, Michelle, and Corine. They now live in the town of Ashmont.

Henriette married Sylvio Noel, brother to Maurice. They have two children: Lea and Wayne and reside in Edmonton.



Ovila Jean's farm, spring — 1955.

Juliette married Bernardino Mazzuca. They have two children: Gino and Lina. They reside in Edmonton.

Jules married Marilyn Bascombe. They have two children: Lisa and Daniel. Till now Daniel is the only Jean grandson. Jules is a barber working with his brother Marcel and residing in Edmonton.

Cecile married Richard Adams. They have two sons: Russell and James. They also live in Edmonton.

Pauline married Emile Brulotte. They have three children: Claude, Christine and Wesley. They live in St. Albert.

Marcel married Sonya Bonk. He is a barber and owner of a shop in Edmonton.

NEW BEGINNINGS

To my grandparents Ovila and Rose Jean

The old friends,
The old House,
A familiar country side
Left behind,
For what?
A rich, prosperous Land
And . . . New Beginnings.

Travelling,
Rutted, dusty roads,
Savage Indians.
A bundle of hardships.
For What?
A rich, prosperous land
And . . . New Beginnings.

A log cabin,
Nestled snugly,
In a tiny clearing,
Surrounded by wildlife.
For What?
New beginnings and happiness.
In a rich, prosperous land.

Nicole Noel

WEARY

Oh, it is hot, so hot.
My throat is parched,
My eyes stinging
From the dust.
My feet are blistered and sore.
Every bone in my body is aching.
Walking, for days, it seems.
Walking, stumbling
With weariness.
I cry out
"Stop, please stop,
For I cannot go on!"
I stumble and fall,
Crying,
I yearn for my comfortable bed.
I look up.
The wagon train is moving on,
They have not heard me.
I yell with all my remaining strength
And collapse.
Strong arms.
A wet towel on my forehead.
My eyes flutter open,
My parents look on
With love and care.
"Rest now, we start again tomorrow," they say.
Ah! the grass makes a soft bed
I think as I drift off
To sleep.

Nicole Noel

PHILIAS JEAN FAMILY

by Cécile (née Jean) Tomlinson

My father, Philias Jean came to Alberta from Ile Verte, Quebec, in May 1919, son of François Jean and Georgina Côté. His new bride, née Marie-Jeanne Dumont, was from Rivière Du Loup.

He had stopped in Pontex, Saskatchewan where he worked for his brother-in-law but he didn't like it there; so he came to the Cartier district. The first year he stayed with his brother, Basile. He helped him the first summer, then he went to work for Mr. Guindon, where Joe Muchka now lives. Mr. Guindon had approximately one hundred head of cattle.



Left to right: Laurier, Pierre with their father, Philias Jean. On binder Philias's brother-in-law, Achille Dumont.



Philias Jean and his bride, Marie-Jeanne Dumont.
Taken February 20.

There had been no crop that year so feed was very scarce. They would haul feed from Whitford, Alberta, to feed the cattle here. It would take a week to make the trip and back. He had to dig the frozen bundles from the snow. I remember him saying he had no potatoes all winter, just frozen lunches.

The first child, Noella was born that year, on December 20.

In the spring, he bought a farm from Mrs. Laboucane. It was next to Basile's. There were fifteen acres broken but it hadn't been upkept so it was back into native pasture. It is here that the other six children were born.

In 1932, at the age of thirty-four, my mother died, leaving seven young children: Noëlla, myself Cécile, Stella, Roger, André, Pierre, and Laurier.

Dad raised us the best he could. It was hard during the depression. In summer, dad farmed, and in winter he'd work for Mr. Letourneau and Mr. Mailloux at St. Paul where the present foundry is. Mr. David Charron, our neighbour would help us feeding the cattle until dad got a large enough herd to make it profitable.



Philias Jean planing wood for his new house after the first one burned.

On January 28, 1938 the house burned down, all was lost. We lived in the chicken coop until spring. Then Dad with Napoleon and Ernest Tremblay fixed a granary into living quarters. We were cramped but it was liveable.

After the fire, Dad hired two men and went logging around St. Edouard. He came back to do his seeding, thinking he would saw the lumber after seeding. Mr. Lamoureux came to tell him there had been a bush fire and all the logs were burned. Dad was quite discouraged.

The next winter, he decided to go north to Rocheleau's camp and there he made enough lumber to build a house. Dad was a good carpenter and he built our big house himself.

On Sundays, after Mass, friends, cousins, and neighbours would gather and have dinner at our



François Jean and Georgina Côté, parents of Philias Jean, Basile Jean and Napoleon Jean.



The Philias Jean Family. Front row: Noëlla, Philias, and Cécile. Back row: André, Laurier, Stella, Pierre, and Roger. Taken in 1947.

house and spend the afternoon playing games. Dad would even play ball with us and the great game of hide-and-go-seek never got old. Gatherings would alternate from house to house until everyone had had their turn. My sisters did the sewing and did the entertaining, while I prepared the food. It was wholesome food which entailed work all day Saturday to prepare home-made bread, butter, pies, cakes and meat, usually plucked chickens baked in the oven. I remember there were no fridges in those days. Whipped cream in cream puffs or thickly laid on "jello" was a treat.

Dad used to feed sows until they were really fat. When they were butchered, there were pails of lard rendered from that. The meat was salted and packed into crocks and barrels. Beef was done similarly. Some of that tallow and lard was used to make soap too.

Crops were put in more slowly as horsepower was really in. Two, three or four horses on a sulky to plow, to disc, to harrow, to seed, to mow hay, to rake it, to cut with a binder and finally hitched to a wagon to haul bundles to the threshing machine. Manpower was required as well, especially at harvest time for stooking and in the spring for rock-picking.

He sold the farm to my brother, André, after the youngest was old enough to be on his own. Dad went to work as a carpenter until his death in 1965. André sold the farm to Manning Real Estate. The present owner is Lawrence Gales.

Mom and Dad had seven children:

Noëlla born December 20, 1919 and married Edmond St. Jean on August 25, 1945. They have 2 children, Raymond and Thérèse. Noëlla passed away on September 22, 1973. Edmond is still living

in Bonnyville, the children in Edmonton.

Cécile born September 10, 1921 and married Robert Tomlinson on November 19, 1945 and live on the farm. They have five boys: Albert, Maurice, Charles, Joe and Robert.

Stella born August 8, 1923 and married Joe St. Jean and they have 2 boys, Albert and Marcel. Joe St. Jean died November 23, 1948. She then married William Marsh and has seven children: Lorraine, Allan, Margaret, Robert, Henry, Doris, and Joanne. They live in St. Paul.

Roger born April 24, 1925 and married Suzanne Boulianne. They have 5 girls: Nicole, Carmen, Lise, Yvonne and Linda. they live in Prince George, B.C.

André born February 2, 1927 married Rita Plouffe. They have 6 children: Victor, Denise, Leo, François, Diane and Louis. They live in St. Paul.

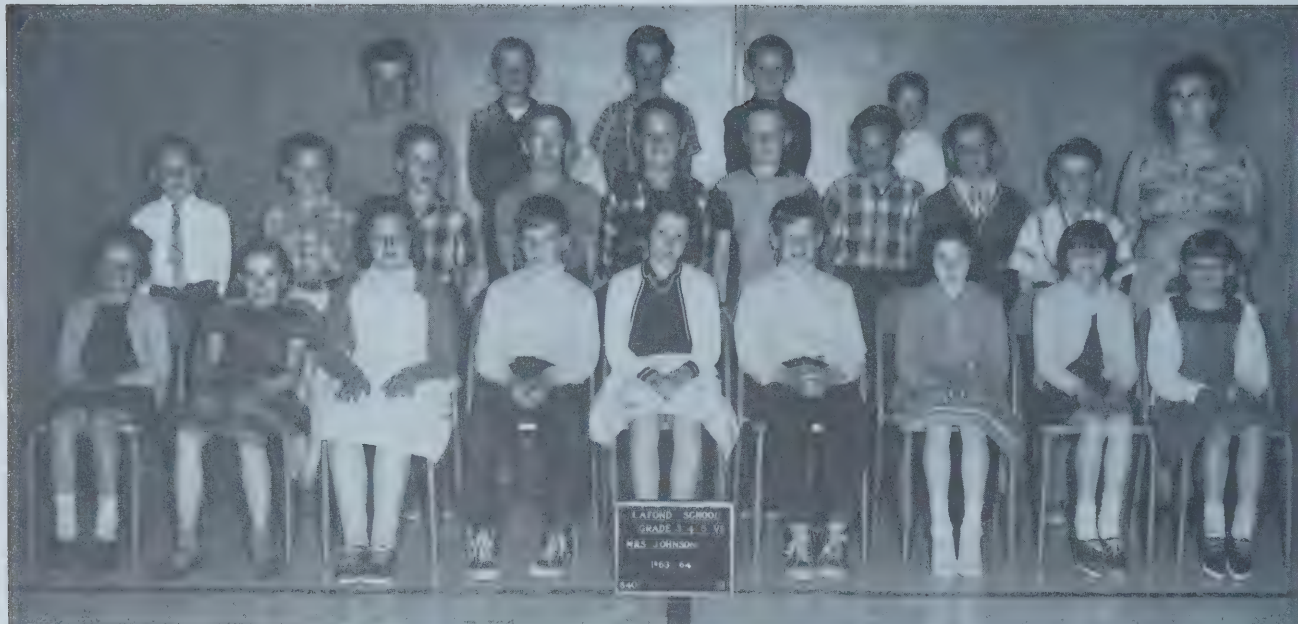
Pierre born November 25, 1928, lives in Mission City, B.C. Laurier born September 19, 1930 married Edna Sidor. They have 6 children: Donald, David, Kathleen, Paul, Linda and Philomin. They live in Edmonton.

HELEN AND BEN JOHNSON

(Two Years at Lafond)

Lafond had been only a place-name to me until 1963 when I accepted a teaching position in that district. So just a few days before school opened I hastily packed, and with my two youngest sons, Bruce and Brent, left Ashmont where we had lived for two months. We rented a small teacherage near Lafond School which was our home for two years.

When his construction job shut down for the winter, we were joined by my husband, Ben. Occa-



Top row left to right: Leonard Bodnariuk, Rodney Logoza, Clarence Bodnariuk, John Chrapko, Ernie Chrapko. Middle row: Raymond Lamoureux, Charles Tomlinson, Roderick Bodnariuk, Erwin Chrapko, Dwayne Ternovoy, Dennis Paradis, Eric Bodnariuk, Jimmy Lakusta, Barry Chornohus, Helen Johnson (teacher). Bottom row: Carol Chrapko, Lorraine Chrapko, Helen Polachuk, Bruce Johnson, Claire Chrapko, Brent Johnson, Lilian Guindon, Diane Yettaw, Louise Yettaw.

sionally we had visits from our three older children.

I was assigned one of the two portable classrooms where I taught a mixed class of grades three to six. I enjoyed working with the other staff members and was thrilled to meet one of my Camrose Normal School classmates of 1934-35. We hadn't seen each other in the intervening years.

As I had been in the city for several years, prior to moving to Ashmont, I was somewhat out of touch with rural community life. I was delightfully surprised by the friendly welcome extended to us by our neighbors. The boys soon made friends among the neighborhood children. At the beginning of my second year in Lafond there were several changes in our staff. I was given a grade four class.



Standing: Myron, Loyd, Doris. Sitting: Brent, Helen, Ben, Bruce. The Johnson family — 1963.

Another of my Normal School classmates joined the staff.

At the end of my second term I resigned my position, and moved back to Ashmont where Ben had bought a Service Station. The next term I returned to Lafond for two months of temporary work. I have also gone back at times as a substitute teacher.

A few weeks ago Ben and I drove through Lafond. So many changes had taken place. The portable classrooms were gone. A new house replaced the teacherage which had been our home. There were other new houses and mobile homes. The old familiar scenes, mingled with the new sights left me with a feeling of nostalgia, not unmixed with a little regret at the changes made by the rapid progress.

Helen Johnson . . . 1980

JEAN-CHARLES JOURNAULT

by Jean-Charles Journault

Jean-Charles Journault married Helen Gill of St. Paul in 1941 and was blessed with a family of two daughters and three sons:

Therese married Clarence Johnson in 1962. They have three children — Mark, Jacqueline, Richard.

Emile married Linda Calihoo in 1973. They have one daughter — Kerry Lee.

Jeannette married Alvin Logoza in 1967. They have two sons — Jamie and Jason.

Victor — Single.

Maurice — Single.



Jean-Charles and Helen Journault — Married August 12, 1941.



Therese Journault winning her first award in Country and Western singing at the age of 14 — 1956.

I was called to join the army in January, 1942. With my father's health failing gradually, I was sent home to look after the farm because my brother Jules was still too young to take over the responsibilities of farming. After the war ended, in 1945, I bought my father's neighbor's farm which was owned by Mr. Patrick Devlin. In 1967, my wife and I decided to sell the farm and move to St. Paul with our two younger sons. In the fall of 1967, we took a trip to Montreal where we took in "Expo" and visited with many relatives on both sides of the family. In 1978, we took a flight tour to Los Angeles in California and in 1979 we flew to Las Vegas where we spent a few days enjoying the excitement of the city of lights. Since our move to St. Paul, I have been employed at the St. Paul Co-op as delivery man. My wife Helen has been employed since 1967 at St. Theresa Hospital as Housekeeping Supervisor.

Our children are:

Thérèse, our oldest daughter, received her education in Lafond where she graduated. She then attended McTavish College in Edmonton, to pursue her career as a secretary. While attending school at Lafond, she was a very active member of the 4-H club and received a number of awards for her achievements. Her talents were direct towards singing, sewing and cooking.

Thérèse started at a very early age in her singing career, winning awards in "Search for Talent Shows" in the St. Paul district and won the opportunity to compete with the top winner of the "Search for Talent" winners of Northern Alberta at the Jubilee Auditorium in Edmonton. Her husband, Clarence Johnson was also a popular winner in Search for Talent Competitions. They have pursued their career as a team and are performing weekly in the entertainment field in Edmonton and surrounding districts. Their specialty in music and singing entertainment is "Country and Western". Clarence



Jean-Charles Journault with grandchildren — Mark, Jacqueline and Richard — children of daughter Therese and Clarence Johnson.



Jean-Charles Journault and Family — Wife, Helen, oldest daughter Therese, Emile, Jeannette, Victor and Maurice — 1961.

has composed a few songs and makes his own lyrics.

Emile, our oldest son, attended school at Lafond. He also attended St. John's College in Edmonton. To pursue his career in foods, he attended the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology. He was then employed at the Royal Glenora Club in Edmonton and worked there for seven years. Adventure then directed him towards other fields of his choice. He studied and worked in the Real Estate business for a few years. He then decided to go into car sales where he has been since. He is now employed at St. Albert Chrysler. His hobbies are curling and cooking.

Jeannette received her education and graduated at Lafond School. She also was an active member of the 4-H club and won first place in public speaking in the district. She was awarded a trip to Montreal. She then pursued her career in the secretarial field after graduating. She is now employed by "Fountain Tires" in Westlock where she resides with her husband and two sons. She takes an active part in community organizations and her favorite sport is curling.

Victor received his education in Lafond and graduated in St. Paul. He attended the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology where he took accounting. He started working for the Co-op in 1971 at St. Léon in Manitoba. He worked there for three years and was then transferred to the St. Paul Co-op where he has been employed since as

accountant and office Manager. His favorite sports are curling, baseball and traveling. His trips took him to England, Wales, France, all across Canada, California, and Mexico.

Maurice received his education at Lafond and graduated in St. Paul. He then worked for a year at the Bank of Montreal in Grande Prairie, then decided to go into carpentering. He is now employed by Raymil Construction in St. Paul. His favorite sports are hockey and fastball and he takes a very active part in both.

JOSEPH JOURNAULT

by Juliana Desaulniers

Joseph Adolphe Journault (1880-1943) son of Philippe Zoel Journault and Vitaline Fortin was born in L'Islet P. Quebec. Extracts from Joseph Journault diary.

He left Montreal with a partner named Alphonse Boucher on April 14, 1909, destination Alberta, with stops in Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton, and Vegreville where he was told he had to file for a homestead in Edmonton. When he learned this, he went back and filed his homestead N.W.



Marie Anna Belanger and Joseph Journault during their courting days in L'Islet P.Q. early 1909 married in 1915. Marie Anna, being a seamstress designed and sewed her own dress.



Dan and Beatrice Joyal, auctioneer, neighbor and friends to the Journault family in Lafond in the early twenties.

3-57-10-W4 in the Lafond area. He came to Lafond to see the land he had filed and went back the next day with stops in Brosseau, Vegreville and Edmonton. He had a job as a cook on a surveying crew which took him to southern Alberta in the Burdett area and south to the Milk River area. On clear days they could see the Rocky Mountains. He notes here that they were living in tents and a storm with high winds blew the tents over spilling the beans and soup, this being one half hour before supper. When the freighter was late with wood and coal, he burned cow chips in the cook stove. He came back to his homestead stopping in Duvernay for three days. He thought of letting the homestead go as there were too many rocks. Perseverance counts as to this day, Jules Bernard the younger of his two sons, still farms and makes his home there.

After building a shack and digging a well, he decided to go back on the surveying crew, always as cook. This time he was working at Athabasca Landing and North in the Ft. McMurray area up to Ft. MacKay. The following year he was in the Brazeau and Lodgepole area.

In 1915 he went back to L'Islet, Quebec and married on June 15, a former neighbor and school friend, Marie Anna Belanger, (1883-1969) daughter of Cleophas Belanger and Flore Gamache. They came west as pioneers to settle on their homestead both leaving behind large families. During the first five years our father had to work out to earn some money. He was cook at the Cloutier Hotel in St. Paul for a few months. Came harvest time for a couple of years he went to Vonda, Saskatchewan as cook on a threshing crew. They cleared the land brushing by hand, pulling stumps and breaking with horses doing about five to ten acres at a time. After some years they purchased two adjacent quarters and hired to do the breaking. When we had the threshers at our place we didn't have them much more than a day. We remember the scrumptious

meals mother put on for them and the baked beans that would cook all night for breakfast. The men all slept in the house in their own blankets. In the evening we would talk with them and play some music, even once dancing a quadrille. We had no uncles or cousins out west, so that during the festive season, we spent Christmas at home and usually on New Year's Day we'd go to our friends Mr. and Mrs. Dan Joyal or Mr. and Mrs. Vaillancourt or they'd come to our place.

Our mother was a steamstress and sewed for others and made our clothes. Once she ripped a suit of our dad that had faded and remade it inside out. It looked like new. She would decorate cakes for weddings and for parish feasts and we'd always like to sample the icing. Our father was a member of the French Association and was strong in supporting the French culture. He was a school and church trustee for many years. He took part in the community activities and was in many stage plays, the main entertainment at that time. He memorized his role whenever he had time even while driving his team going to St. Paul. The last play he took part in was in 1942 "La Marraigne de Charlie".

We are the fourth generation of Journault's in Canada. Our great grandfather Thomas Journault son of Richard Journault and Esther Lebreton of the Island of Jersey came to Canada in 1838 and married that same year Monique Gaudreau in L'Islet Quebec. Thanks to our Uncle Napoleon Journault Brother of the Most Holy Sacrement who researched the genealogy of the family dating back for over a century. In 1938 a grandiose celebration of the 100th year of the Journault's in Canada was held in L'Islet Quebec. Our father went and stayed one month visiting. It was the first time he had gone back and he met with six of his brothers. Father passed away at 63 in 1943.

For some time Mother continued living on the farm with her son Jules. In 1948 she returned to the East for the first time, accompanied by Mrs. David Charron. She visited her old home and her three sisters who were still living there.

In 1948 she purchased a lot in St. Paul, 100 by 150 ft. for 175.00 dollars and had a house transported on to it from the farm. In 1949 it was ready for her to move in. She spent twenty happy years there, and in 1969 she passed away at 85 years of age. Juliette, Josephine and Juliana went in 1977 to L'Islet Quebec. We visited our parent's homes and the church where they were baptized and married. We had one uncle and one aunt left whom we met. Since then one has passed away. We brought back maple leaves from a tree on our mother's farm which we treasure in our souvenir album.

Jeannette (1916-1979) the older daughter was married in 1937 to Laurent Robinson of Lafond they had fourteen children, three are deceased.

Jean-Charles (1918) married Helene Gill of St.



Back row: Juliette Robinson, Juliana Desaulniers, Jules Bernard, Josephine Brault. Front row: Jeannette Robinson, Jean-Charles — 1975.

Paul in 1941, five children, now live in St. Paul.

Juliette (1920) married Philippe Robinson of Lafond in 1944 eight children now reside in St. Paul.

Juliana (1922) married Wilfred Desaulniers of Lafond in 1943, ten children. They now live in St. Paul.

Jules Bernard (1924) married Fernande Desaulniers of Lafond in 1948, twelve children. They live on the old homestead.

Josephine (1927) married Pierre Brault of Lafond in 1946, they have four children, they live in Lafond.

THE JULES JOURNAULT FAMILY

by Fernande Journault (née Desaulniers)

Jules was born on July 24, 1924, the fifth child of Joseph Journault and Marianna Belanger. He attended school in Lafond until Grade VII. He remembers driving the old buckskin on a buggy in the summer and a cutter in the winter. In 1943, his father passed away, so he continued to live with his mother and farm the homestead. In 1947, they bought a sawmill and provided lumber for themselves and the neighbours. With the exception of the barn, all the farm buildings, including the house, were built with lumber sawed from our land.

I, Fernande, was born November 20, 1929, the seventh child of René Desaulniers and Florence Guenette. As well as attending school in Lafond, I took two years of piano lessons with Sister St.

Joseph, and two years of sewing with Bertha Jubinville. I won an award to attend Olds Agricultural College for a week.

On June 21, 1948, Jules and I were married in Lafond and settled on his dad's farm, where we still reside. Power came to the district in 1955 and in 1957 we moved into a newly built home which was not completely finished until 1967. In 1965 running water was installed. Together we raised twelve children, six boys and six girls. They all attended school in Lafond and graduated in St. Paul. In 1973 our family received the "Farm Family Award" for our role in today's agricultural and community involvement.

As well as being very busy with the farm, Jules participated actively in many community affairs such as Director of the Agricultural Society, F.U.A., Lafond Credit Union, Parish Council, and a Director of the St. Paul Co-op, a position he has held for over 23 years.

I have always enjoyed my sewing, making clothes for all the family, as well as for many others. I am currently working at Speciality Fashions. I also enjoy taking part in community affairs such as Les Femmes Chretiennes, The Liturgical Council and the Golden Hour Club.

Looking back over the years, we can all say the farm has provided us with a very satisfying and rewarding life.

Our eldest child Albert was born in 1949. While most of his schooling was in Lafond, he attended



The Jules Journault Family in 1974. Back row L-R: Albert, Suzanne, Mariline, Conrad, Claire, Louise, Lucille, Normand. Front row: Eugene, Fernande, Ronald, Jules, Cheryl, Raymond.

College Saint John for grades eight to ten, returning to Lafond and graduating from Racette High School in St. Paul in 1968. He attended the Vermilion Agricultural and Vocational College where he obtained a diploma in Animal Science and Systems Management. In 1970 he began to work for the Bank of Commerce, where he is still employed. In June 1979, he married Lois Manchak in Edmonton and now resides in Sherwood Park. Bert recalls well the days of no electricity or running water. The first winter, he attended school, there was a lot of snow and the roads were often impassable, so he roomed at his Auntie Gagne's. In the spring when the thaw started, the roads were again impassable due to floods. His dad would drive him to school by tractor on Monday and pick him up Friday night, boarding again at Auntie Annette's during the week.

Albert remembers working in the field and driving the tractor at the age of nine. When he started school there was only four rooms and no gymnasium. A fifth room was what later became Mr. Theroux's garage.

Suzanne, born in 1950, being the oldest girl was assigned the responsibility of preparing and cooking meals at a young age. After graduating from Racette High School in St. Paul she enrolled at the University of Alberta. She graduated in 1972 with a B of Sc. Degree in Foods and Nutrition. She did her dietetic internship at the University Hospital in Saskatoon. Upon graduation she worked in Kenora, Ont. at the Lake of the Woods Hospital. In 1976 she left for Australia, New Zealand and South-east Asia and spent two and a half years travelling. She now lives in Calgary and works as a therapeutic dietitian at the Foothills Hospital.

Louise, born in 1951, enrolled at Mount Royal College in Calgary after graduating, taking Interior Design. She then worked in Montreal, Vancouver

and Edmonton. She went to Australia and worked and travelled there for three and a half years. She is now back in Alberta.

Claire, born in 1952, after high school, enrolled in a secretarial course in NAIT. After her graduation, she has worked for the Federal Department of Manpower and Immigration, the Department of Agriculture, Public Works and the Dept. of External Affairs in Ottawa. In 1977 she was transferred to Geneva, Switzerland to work for Permanent Missions of Canada, at the office of the United Nations. In 1979, she was transferred back to Ottawa for External Affairs where she is still employed.

Mariline, born in 1953, attended the University of Alberta for two years. She married Dale Leckie in 1976. They are presently living in Hamilton, Ontario where Dale is attending McMaster University and Mariline is employed at the Bank of Commerce. They have one son, Serge.

Lucille, born in 1955, completed a Medical Laboratory and Technology course at NAIT and at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton. She then joined Suzanne in Kenora, Ontario where she worked for three years. Then together they travelled to Australia and New Zealand for one and a half years. Since Lucille's return, she has worked in McLennan Hospital, Alberta and is presently employed at the University of Alberta Hospital.

Normand, born in 1956, completed High School at St. Paul Regional High School and then worked at the Senecal Tire Shop for two years. He then attended Vermilion College as an apprentice carpenter and is now completing his fourth year at NAIT. Normand has always enjoyed hockey. While in Lafond School he played with the Thunderbirds and thanks to the sponsoring of the Lion's Club, he attended Hockey School with Terry Harper and Mickey Redmond. It was quite a thrill. In August 1980, he married Wendy Miller, formerly of Winnipeg. They are residing in Edmonton.

Eugene, born in 1958, has worked in Edmonton, Cold Lake, St. Paul, and on the farm. His favorite hobby is cross-country skiing. He is now working for the Department of Transportation.

Conrad, born in 1959, attended NAIT for two years, completing a course on Earth Resources. He is presently living in Calgary where he is employed with Amoco Canada Petroleum.

Raymond, born in 1960, is presently attending Lakeland College in Vermilion, specializing in the field of agriculture. He plans on returning to the farm.

Ronald, born in 1965, is attending school at the Glenrose School Hospital and is residing in a Catholic Group Home in Edmonton.

Cheryl, born in 1969, is attending Racette School in St. Paul and is taking piano lessons with Sr. Beaudry and dancing with Les Bles D'or a French Canadian dance group.

GEORGE KASZEFSKI

by Helen and Ed Kaszefski

Mr. George Kaszefski was born in Austria on May 9th, 1891. After the death of his mother and father, at the early age of twelve years, he started working to support himself by working on ships that freighted across the Atlantic between Europe and Canada. Mr. Kaszefski crossed the Atlantic seven times. On the seventh and last crossing on the 7th of February, 1912, he sailed from Antwerp on a ship called the Mount Temple to St. John, N.B. and on February 23, 1912, he boarded a Canadian Pacific train for the trip across Canada to Brooks, Alberta, where he started to work as a laborer and later became a foreman for a railway construction crew.

Mr. Kaszefski took out a homestead on July 2, 1914, which was located in Lac Bellevue, being the S.E. Quarter of Section 21, Township 56, Range 9, West of the 4th Meridian. While in Edmonton obtaining the homestead, he met Fred and Mike Chmilar whom he accompanied on a trip to their home and there he met Tilly Chmilar who later became his wife.

He spent the first winter on his homestead by himself and his home for the winter was a dugout in the ground, covered with logs, branches and earth. He spent this first winter on the homestead cutting trees and preparing lumber for their new home. At the time that they came to their homestead there were no roads at all and there were few people inhabiting the area.

George Kaszefski married Tilly Chmilar in 1915.



L-R: Mrs. Frank Linkiewich with Mary in arms, Nick Linkiewich, Mrs. Kaszefski, George Kaszefski — 1921.

She was the daughter of John and Sofia Chmilar who emigrated to Canada in 1908 from Brody in the Ukraine. George and Tilly Kaszefski moved to their homestead in 1916 and since there was very little income on the homestead. Mr. Kaszefski went out to work part time for the railway at his former job at Brooks. He continued going out to supplement his income for about five years and thereafter he worked full time on his farm.

They endured many hardships such as in 1919 when, because of a long cold hard winter, a severe feed shortage was realized and cattle were so starved that they ate bark from tree branches.

They lived on the homestead for approximately ten years and then moved to a quarter section located one mile north of Lac Bellevue Hall. In 1929 a hail storm completely destroyed their crops and they realized yet another terrible set back in their farming operation.

In 1944 they sold their farm and purchased a general store in St. Paul which they operated very successfully until it was sold in 1955. After selling their store, they bought an acreage west of St. Paul town limits where, at the age of seventy, Mr. Kaszefski built a new home.

Mr. and Mrs. Kaszefski had a family of one daughter and three sons, Peter and Joe of Vancouver, B.C., Mrs. Helen Charchuk of St. Paul and Edward of St. Paul. Mr. Kaszefski retired and lived on his acreage until his sudden death on September 10, 1973. Mrs. Kaszefski is presently residing on the acreage.

JOHN KOSSEY SR. AND MARIA

by the family

John Kossey Sr. and his wife Maria came to Canada from Sharnipol Ukraine in 1910. With them



Maria Kossey Celebrating her 100th birthday, May 3, 1980, with her family. Standing: Tom, Steve, John, and Peter her sons. Seated: Millie Maxim, Baba Kossey, Mary Kozicki her two daughters, sitting.

they brought 2 children. They settled in the Smoky Lake, Alberta area, where they lived for 16 years.

In 1926 they moved to the Foisy district where they resided for 4 years only.

In the fall of 1930, John and Maria went to the Beaver Dam, Alberta area, where they homesteaded.

Maria's husband passed away in 1943. They had 4 sons and 3 daughters.

Maria Kossey was born May 10, 1880 in the Ukraine. After her husband passed away she came to live with her son John and wife, Mary.

Maria was a quiet lady. She was known to all as Baba Kossey. She lived with her son John and his family until January 1977. Shortly after the old age home in Vilna was opened up, she went to live there, where she spent the rest of her days.

Baba Kossey passed away December 3, 1980 at the grand old age of 100 yrs 7 months.

She has 19 grandchildren, 36 great grandchildren, and 5 great great grandchildren.

JOHN J. KOSSEY FAMILY

by Mary Kossey

John and his wife Mary came to the St. Brides district Oct. 19, 1948 from Beaver Dam, Alberta. At that time they had 4 children. John's Mother Maria also came to live with them, as she was a widow.

Here is their story as told by John's wife Mary.

We first decided to come to St. Brides, when our daughter, at the age 2 years, got an appendicitis attack and it took us all day to get her to Bonnyville Hospital which was only 35 miles away. The roads were really bad in our area. We just about lost her. Then we decided that it was not a place for anybody with a family to reside.

John came to the St. Paul area to find some land. He leased some from William Kuz at St. Brides.

We built a little 2 room log shack, which we mud plastered. It was very crowded for 7 people to live in.

John and his brother Peter owned a sawmill and used to go sawing lumber in the Sugden area for the



John J. Kossey family — Aug. 17, 1975. Joe, Donald, Louise, Dale, Ronald. Sitting: Mary and John.

winter months.

In 1952 we decided to buy land of our own. We moved to our own land in May 1953, again into a small 4 room house 21 ft. x 21 ft. The winter of 1952-1953, John went logging and got lumber to build a home. That fall we moved into it. It had only been completed on the outside. We eventually finished our home, room by room, every year, as we could afford.

In 1955, we got electricity. My, what a treat! The children kept switching lights on and off with amazement.

In 1958, we installed a running water system. The ditching was done with a pick and shovel.

In 1959 another son was born.

Life was not easy for us. John was always out with the sawmill in winter and went working for a while in the summer months. I was left alone with the little ones with all the farm chores, cows to milk by hand, while John was away working.

We had a few misfortunes in our farming days, not too bad though. In the summer of 1959, fire destroyed our barn with some hogs in it. We got hauled out some years. At the present we are still farming, living in our home that we built in 1953.

Our eldest children got their first years of schooling in St. Brides and then went to Glen Avon School in St. Paul, for their high school education.

Ronald, our eldest quit school in 1959, and went to be a Cat Operator. In 1970, he married Evelyn Garner, only daughter of Sidney and Nancy Garner of Boyne Lake, Alberta. Ronald at present owns a logging truck and lives in Houston, B.C. Ronald and Evelyn have 2 children, Rhonda and Melvin.

Louise, our only daughter graduated from high school in 1962. The same summer she married Victor Cooper, son of Claude and Francis Cooper of Abilene, Alberta. They started their married life farming in the St. Brides area. Their first 2 children



This is the John Kossey home and yard in 1977 and same at present.



Building the John Kossey home, summer of 1953 where they now reside.

were born while they lived here.

Victor is now a welder. He received his Welders Ticket while being employed by Sherritt Gordon mines at Fort Sask., Alberta, where they reside. Louise is employed in the Parts Dept. for Decker Chev. Olds Company. They have 3 children. Darrel our eldest grandchild, Kevin and Cindy.

Donald graduated from high school in 1962. Went to University to take up education. Taught school in Frog Lake in 1964-1965 school term. After that he decided teaching was not for him, so he went to work for Sherritt Gordon Mines, in Fort Sask., Alberta. Got his education for a Registered Industrial Accountant by going to night classes in U. of A. He got his degree in 1973. Donald married Sandra Boyko in 1968, daughter of the late Boyko of Spedden, Alberta. Donald is an Assistant Controller for Sherritt Gordon Mines in Fort Sask., where they reside. He also teaches third year Registered Industrial Accounting, evening classes at the University of Alberta. Donald and Sandra have 2 children, Corine and Dion.

Joe graduated from high school in 1965. Took his training for signals with the C.N.R. for 4 years.

Is now employed as a Signals Foreman with them. He married Heather Holloway in 1969, daughter of John and Lil Holloway of Ashmont, Alberta. They are living in Hope, B.C. Joe and Heather have 3 children, Tara, Scott and Michael, our youngest grandchild.

Dale our youngest got his education in St. Paul, as St. Brides school was closed and the children bused to St. Paul. Dale graduated from high school in 1977. He is now apprenticing for an electrician. Dale at present is single, resides in Bonnyville,

Alberta, and is employed by Electric Services in Grand Centre, Alberta.

PAUL KOSTYNIUK AND FAMILY

by Russel Paziuk

Mr. Paul Kostyniuk, son of Elsie and Dan Kostyniuk, was born on May 12, 1895 in Poland. At a young age of 17, Paul decided to leave Poland, his parents, 2 sisters and 1 brother and in 1912, arrived by ship to Canada. His family remained in his native homeland.

Paul's next move was to Winnipeg, Manitoba shortly after his arrival to Canada and remained in Manitoba for a period of approximately five years. He tells us that during this period, work was scarce, almost impossible to find, and worked at many short term jobs simply to exist. Paul tells us that at one point, he worked at a harness factory where he earned \$.90 for a 10 hour day.

On April 20, 1917, Paul decided to come to Western Canada because, as he heard then, the west was beginning to develop and this created some job opportunities for people wishing to work for the railroad. Furthermore, the availability of obtaining cheap land in Northern Alberta was the talk amongst Paul's railroad worker friends. After his arrival in Alberta, between the years 1917 and June 1926, Paul worked for the railroads that would eventually become the lifeline between eastern and western Canada, and as I sat with the Kostyniuk's one day, looking at their picture collection, the numerous photos of railroad life, his fellow workers and equipment indicated to me that Paul was very



Paul and Barbara Kostyniuk and Family.

much involved in the laying of the trackage, on the plains and in the mountains through B.C. Pay at that time, as Paul recalls, was \$1.25 per day and out of this grand earning, a small portion would be deducted for food and lodging.

Mrs. Barbara Kostyniuk, was born in 1905 to John Olyniuk and Dora Kakowichuk, in the Willingdon district. The Olyniuks had six daughters and one son.

It was on April 22, 1922 that Paul and Barbara married with the reception held just outside of Hairy Hill. Barbara recalls that she first met Paul when Barbara and her older sister went to visit old friends, who were also railroad people.

The Paul Kostyniuk's took a homestead in the Lac Bellevue area (N.W. 14-56-10-W4th) in the year 1925. The land had been occupied prior to this date because, as Paul recalls, there was already a small log house and about 12 acres of cultivation. As the Kostyniuks recall, the seeding of the first crop was

made possible with seed wheat obtained from Barbara's parents, who were by then established farmers in the Willingdon area.

As most pioneers in the community, what was possible to be handmade was made, including clothing, food, etc., and Mr. Kostyniuk tells us that he would haul a load of wheat to Mundare and have it ground for flour. The trip by wagon would take 4-5 days return because of line ups of other residents grinding there as well.

Paul Kostyniuk was a Trustee of the Lac Bellevue School for approximately five years and remembers Mr. Desaulniers, Mrs. Lafreniere and Mr. Harry Taschuk as being the Trustees of that time.

The Kostyniuk's had thirteen children, seven boys and six girls. They lost one boy one week after birth. The remaining children are:

Jean married Stanley Yuschyshyn (now deceased). They had 2 boys Mervyn and Kenneth. On June 17, 1980, Jean was blessed a second time and married Paul Sabourin. They live in Westlock on a farm.

Bill, who resides in St. Paul; likes hunting and fishing.

Pauline married Walter Poloway and lives in Westlock. They have 2 children; Dianne and Wayne and 2 grandchildren.

Henry married Olga Harasym. They have 5 children; Wendy, Maureen, Marlene, Barbara, Lyn-don and 2 grandchildren.

Elsie married Metro Beraska. They have 3 children; Clarence, Veronica, and Tammy. They all live in Edmonton.

Paul married Sharon Burnham. They reside in Wabamun and have 3 children; Brian, Jacqueline and Kenneth.



Paul Kostyniuk during his railroad days at Brule, Alberta.



The Kostyniuk Farmsite.

Walter married Shirley Tourangeau. They have 3 children; Nicole, Garth and Paul II.

Lilly married John Leach. They live in Camrose and have 2 sons; Todd and Michael.

Eleanor married Wilfred Zadunayski. They live on a farm in the Westlock area and have 4 children; Monica, Conrad, Donald, and Darcy.

Orest married Sue. They live in Blackfalds and have 2 children; Bobby-Jo (daughter) and Dale (son).

Danny married Rose Lapointe and lives in St. Paul. They have 3 children; Beatrice, Russell and David.

Mary married Ron Zadunayski. They also live in the Westlock area and farm. They have 3 children; Michael, Lori and Cheryl.

The Kostyniuk family retired from the Lac Bellevue farm in 1959. As of this writing, Paul and Barbara are living happily in the town of St. Paul, Barbara at 75 and Paul at an age of 85.

LADISLAW AND ANIELA KOTOWICH

by Rose Worobec

Ladislaw and Aniela Kotowich (nee Malek) were emigrants to Canada from Bohemia, Poland. They were married in Poland in May of 1928. Ladislaw and Aniela left Poland for Canada in June 16th, 1928 arriving first to Halifax, N.S. July 17th, 1928. From the time of their departure, it took exactly 31 days. At this time there was a lot of sickness on the boat.



Left to right: Walter A. Kotowich, Frank Kotowich, Josie Kotowich, Annie Kotowich. Top row: Ladislaw Kotowich, Aniela Kotowich, and Mrs. Lukenchuk.



Horses — transportation and workhelpers. L. to R.: Annie Kotowich, Walter A. Kotowich, Josie Kotowich, Frank Kotowich.

At the same time Ladislaw and Aniela came, they also brought their 2½ year old niece who was Aniela's brother's daughter, Betty Malek, whose parents already were living in Canada.

They travelled from Halifax, N.S. to St. Paul, Alberta by train which took them one week. At the time of their arrival, they met with Aniela's brother and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Malek who lived at N.E. 27-56-9-4.

After spending a short time with Mr. and Mrs. Malek, Ladislaw and Aniela purchased their very own homestead at S.W. 26-56-9-4. They spent long hours clearing land to enable them to build a house and be able to sow a few acres and plant a garden. Before a house was erected, they dug a hole in a bank and lived there.



In app. 1943. Front row: in front of our home Annie Kotowich, Frank Kotowich, Rose Kotowich (flowers), Josie Kotowich (the musician of the family), Walter A. Kotowich (saluting the flag). Our dog. It looks like the Rose Bowl Parade.



L. to R.: Rose P. Worobec, Frank Kotowich, Josie Carrier, Walter Kotowich, Annie Noel, and our mother Aniela Kotowich.

Ladislaw and Aniela had four children, two boys and two girls; Walter, Frank, Annie Noel and Josie Carrier. The children all attended Lac Canard School until approximately 1945, which was ½ mile away. The teachers who taught at the time were Rose Bagan, Mr. Warrenuk, Mr. Kulita, Valentine twins and Mary Gadowski.

Aniela did all her washing by hand with soap she made from fat and lye. Days were never long enough as there were still other things to do including planting a large garden which first had to be dug up by using a spade or shovel. Problems never ended here as things never were easy during this time. Whenever Aniela had to go for the few cows they had, it made it rather difficult to haul small children along, so Aniela usually left them in the house, hoping all would be well when she would return, however, Aniela tells us today, one instance when she walked a short distance into the dense bush, she heard the children crying. She would rush home to find one of the children set some papers on fire which could have been disastrous. After an incident like this one, she used to tie the children to a post to keep them around and out of mischief.

Ladislaw and Aniela always attended church services which were held approximately once a month at Frank Linkewich's home.

In March, 1939, Ladislaw passed away at the age of 39 years due to water settling on the brain.

In the spring of 1939, Aniela was left carrying an unbearable load, caring for four children, all of whom were under 14 years of age. However, wherever there is sadness, always comes joy. It was not long after when Peter Slywka, a nearby farmer decided to help Aniela by working the land. Years passed when a love blossomed and Peter and Aniela began a new life together. Later a daughter was born to Peter and Aniela; Rose. The war was on and times were hard. There was a ration on food. The land was poor and very hilly, which made it very hard on the horses.

In 1945, Peter and Aniela bought 2 more quarters of land, one from Mrs. Tally N.E. 10-56-9-4 and another quarter from Mr. Bouchard, S.E. 15-56-9-4. This land was more level, more was cleared which made it easier for man and animal. It was at this time the children transferred to St. Cyr School which was located approximately 3 miles northwest of St. Cyr Lake which was about 3½ miles from home with Mrs. Lamothe being the teacher.

In 1947, they bought their first tractor, a W-6 McCormick for \$1,480.00. It was the same year they bought their first truck a 1938 Ford.

Everything Aniela served the family was from the farm including home made breads, jams, and cheese. There was always a large garden which made work for Aniela endless.

On August 1st, 1965, Peter passed away after suffering a stroke. Aniela then bought a home in St. Paul and is still able to care for herself at the age of 78 years.

Aniela has 5 children: Walter A. of St. Paul, Annie Noel of Edmonton, Josie Carrier of St. Paul, Frank of St. Paul and Rose Worobec of St. Paul. She has 30 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren who at different times, do drop in to break her monotony. Aniela usually keeps herself busy by still planting a large garden and knitting.

THE FRANK KOTOWICH FAMILY

by Susan Kotowich

On January 26th, 1935, Frank Kotowich was born on N.W. 26-56-R9-M4, a quarter now owned by Bill Rath. He was the youngest of four children, born to the late Walter Kotowich and Aneila Malek.



Frank and Walter Kotowich — 1942. At the Kotowich first homestead their first house.



4-H day with the Kotowich's — 1978. L-R: Susan, Paul, Janet.
Bottom: Annette, Denis, Andy.

Frank's schooling began at age six in Lac Canard School. He spent two years there, where at the same time, his mother was purchasing the quarter of land located N.E. 10-57-9-M4, owned by Mrs. Tally. After buying Tally's land, today's original farmstead, the first homestead, N.W. 26-56-9-M4 was sold to a Mr. Lakusta. After attending Lac St. Cyr School for five years and the St. Paul School for one year, Frank quit at the age of fourteen. He immediately started farming the land his mom previously bought from Mrs. Tally, with a 30 horse power tractor and twenty head of cattle. By this time, the other members of the family had left to pursue their own lives with their individual desires.

Farming hand and hand with his Mom, Frank slowly expanded the homestead and purchased four more quarters. This land was owned by Mr. Bouchard, Mr. Ouellette, and Mr. Albert Noel.

Frank then got the urge to raise his own family. He asked his mother for permission to take a wife and her instinctive answer granted him that privilege. In 1962, Frank then settled his Mom in St. Paul by buying two lots and a house where she still resides today. He met his wife at a dance at Cartier Hall. She was the former Miss Eva Kriaski, daughter of Joseph Kriaski and Annie (nee Haraba) from the Flat Lake district. Eva, born on June 6th, 1939 was the oldest of six girls. She attended grades one to six at Flat Lake School, grades seven and eight at Simone School and finished high school in St. Paul. Eva graduated in 1959. Then, in 1960, Eva got a job at the St. Theresa Hospital and worked in the main kitchen until Frank asked her to be his wife. Therefore, on November 17th, 1962, the wedding bells rang and Frank and Eva exchanged rings. Immediately after Eva left the hospital work to go farming with her husband.

Born to Frank and Eva were six children; three boys and three girls. Susan, Paul, Janet, Annette, Andy and Denis were all born in the St. Theresa Hospital in St. Paul.

The oldest of the six, Susan was born on March 14th in 1964. She attended the Elementary School, the Racette Junior High School and is presently enrolled in Grade 11 at the Regional High. Susan is very active in many activities both outside and inside school. A great deal of her time is spent with the student's union and grad committee. She is also kept busy by being editor for the high school yearbook. Besides this, Susan is involved in her fifth year of 4-H. She has served in most executive positions. A highlight of her 4-H career was attending the Provincial Public Speaking Speakoffs as a winner from Northern Alberta. As well, being selected 1980 member of the year for the St. Paul Multi Club is something she will always remember. She is also part of the Parish Council, and the Community School Planning and Steering Committee. Susan is well known for achieving honors in many academic awards and essay competitions. After high school, she plans to attend university and study law.

In 1965, on June 6th, Paul, the family's first son came along. Paul is presently in grade 10 at the Regional High School. He is in his fifth year of 4-H and is an active member of the Multi Club. His achievements in showmanship and grooming are very outstanding for he has brought home many trophies in these categories. Paul is a very good public speaker and has been told time and time again that he possesses the qualities of a politician. He has also won essay and school competitions. Paul is almost his Dad's right arm as he is very enthusiastic and knowledgeable in the cattle business. He hopes to continue farming the family farm after high school.

Janet, born June 24th, 1966, is the third child of the family. Presently, she is in grade 9 at the Racette



Eva and Frank Kotowich — 1978. For many years actively involved with their family in 4-H activities.



The Frank Kotowich Family — 1980. Back: Andy, Paul, Janet, Frank, Eva, Annette. Front row: Denis and Susan.

Junior High School where she is very active in the school newspaper and sports activities. Janet is also part of the 4-H Multi Club as a very active member and club reporter. Being her fifth year, she has also collected a number of trophies and awards in grooming showmanship and public speaking. Janet does a great deal of work on the farm helping with the everyday chores. Her major ambition now is to finish grade 12.

After a span of 4 years, Annette, the fourth child was born on January 24th, 1970. She is attending the Elementary School in grade 5. This is her first year in 4-H and she is greatly enjoying it. Besides this, Annette is part of the Angel Group for the Catholic Church. Someday, she plans to be a seamstress.

Andy followed Annette and became part of the family on August 14th, 1971. He is in grade 4 at the Elementary School and is very anxious to join 4-H. Andy loves to work with mechanical instruments and gadgets but has no future plans as of yet.

Denis is the baby of the family. He was a New Year's Eve baby of 1974. Denis is in kindergarten and enjoys it and he shows interest in the family farm business.

Besides the raising of their own six children, Frank and Eva had the experience of being foster parents. They raised Francois L'Heureux, originally

from St. Paul. He was born on December 3rd in 1955 and stayed with the family from 11 until he graduated in 1975. Frankie was very helpful on the farm and he enjoyed the country living as he learned many things. Even now, Frankie still finds time to return home from his carpentry career in Edmonton to visit with his foster family.

Besides raising this altogether-busy family, Frank and Eva are still expanding. They have added two more quarters to their ownership and are now renting five others. All the old and beginning buildings have been replaced by new white and green, bigger buildings to accommodate the growing operation. During the year of their marriage, the barn now standing was built. In the fall of 1969, the machine shed was completed. A new 3 bedroom home was constructed on the homestead in 1973 and with it two new cattle sheds appeared early in 1974.

In general, Frank and Eva's farming business involves the raising of 300 beef cattle, a number of which are registered Simmentals, plus the growing of grain for feed and for sale. A part of the land is constantly being used for haying and pasture purposes.

A full line of large farming equipment exists on the Kotowich land to keep up with the growing operation. During all seasons, there is no aid from any hired help for the children do take the place of hired hands. In the year of 1979, the farm was registered with the Government of Alberta as Kotowich Evergreen Farms, and now exists as this.

Frank and Eva have received 5 and 10 year certificates for caring for children as foster parents. Frank now serves on the REA board, as a director. Both he and his wife Eva spend a great deal of time supporting and working with the St. Paul 4-H Multi Club.

In conclusion, farming has become Frank and Eva Kotowich's life and their future with the hope that someday their homestead will be carried on.



Aerial view of the Frank Kotowich Farmstead — 1979.

"Before this generation of Kotowich's came into existence, the following message written by Susan, describes a bit of years gone past."

A HONEYMOON TO THE PROMISED LAND

by Susan Kotowich

The good old days; yes as a child of the modern, and rapidly developing twentieth century, I have heard about the days when Alberta was young and just beginning, and the people were settling the land. Grandma Kotowich has often revealed her trip to Canada and how, fifty-one years ago, she began a journey of promise.

June 4, 1929 was a very special and unforgettable day in the lives of two newlyweds. Walter and Aneila Kotowich ended a harsh two month journey, by ship, across the Atlantic Ocean from Poland. Their entrance into the rich land of Canada came through the Maritime city of Halifax; and even though they had finally reached the sturdiness of solid ground, the trip was not at an end. By train, Grandma and Grandpa travelled through Canada until finally they arrived at their proposed destination. St. Paul, Alberta was nothing more than a one-horse town with wooden sidewalks, two stores, and a post office; but to the two Polish immigrants, the homestead they applied for was to be home. Their personal belongings were very few, and consisted of only a few necessary clothes. Nevertheless, as a newly married couple, with their hands as tools, and a total of six dollars in their pockets, my grandparents began to break and tame their homestead.

Working hand in hand, Grandma and Grandpa experienced the hardships and successes together. Like most settlers, their major goal in the first year of settlement was survival. Thus, their first natural concern was to construct some sort of shelter; and after clearing the trees, the building of a one-room log shack became the first physical structure — and the first sign of life on the barren land.

However, with winter slowly but surely approaching, having a roof over their heads did not provide enough security for a comfortable six months, as food and many supplies were still needed. Therefore, one of the first tasks I can recall Grandma mentioning is the fashioning of the road that would connect the town and developing settlements. At the time there were no distinct divisions in labour; therefore, woman or not, Grandma helped to construct their route of transportation. This brought a source of income to the family budget and once again this new way of life showed a spirit of hope and happiness.

Even though the work was hard, and the hours long, at fifty cents per week, the pioneers thought they had it made. Not only were they creating the foundation for a better life for their children, but at

the same time they were developing Alberta into a prosperous and wealthy province for themselves. For my grandparents, they used the earned money received to buy flour and the few utensils they could afford, until they were in production themselves.

Soon winter came, and with it, the coldness of Jack Frost and the soft white blanket of snow. Nevertheless, as one season flowed into the next spring was soon close at hand.

Times were hard during the second year, as the Kotowichs were still trying to gain a footing into the business of farming. Although, in spite of this, things not seen in previous months had taken place; for after cultivating the land with borrowed machinery, a few acres of crop had been seeded. Then, things looked promising. My Grandpa was able to transport his first load of wheat into a little village known as Myrnam. Located south of the homestead, the small town contained a flour mill where the grain was crushed and manufactured into flour and porridge. At this point, the food stuffs for the upcoming winter were slowly collecting. As the man of the house made the long trip into the hamlet, it should be mentioned that Grandma and all other female pioneers took over the duties of the farm. Besides doing her housework, involving the regular cleaning, washing, gardening, and child-raising, she also continued the harvest and work in the fields, if it were all possible.

Along with the addition of a garden and crop to the homestead, a countable number of livestock could be seen around the farmyard as well. Like the Barter system of the middle ages, in exchange for wages and services rendered, my grandparents had acquired a few old cows worth five dollars a piece. It may have been questioned that the animals would not survive the winter; but somehow they did and served the purpose of providing milk, cream, and butter.

Nevertheless, survival and 'living now', without any great leap into expansion or development, was still the story among the immigrants. However, somehow, both Grandma and Grandpa had the stamina, ambition, and constant desire to make the best of what they owned. Progress and hope were their morals and their love for the land kept them struggling for improvement.

Then, to make matters worse, a few years after their arrival, the Dirty Thirties struck and brought with it, its own type of poverty. The pioneers had just begun to live off their own wealth and produced products when 1930 to 1940 became the most unforgettable days of their early Alberta life. All of a sudden, sale and prices of farm products had fallen, and already many farmers had lost their land by mortgage foreclosure.

The American people had wildly believed that the prosperity of the 1920's had come to stay. Though Grandma and Grandpa had not felt the

impact of this era of wealth; they certainly experienced the sudden drop of good fortune that had hit the rest of the world. Now a financial panic gripped the nation. The wheels of industry stopped, prices collapsed, and unemployment spread rapidly. It was then, that everything was worth nothing. The people had plunged into the greatest depression ever recorded in history. The situation was made worse by the fact that the Dirty Thirties were almost world wide.

Eventually, the years of drought, and inflation passed on, and once again life was a battle field for survival. Recovery from the depression was a lengthy process.

Once again, the land was coaxed into becoming productive. It was rested, worked, and seeded. The weather co-operated, and the necessary rain and sunlight were present for the growth of crops. Slowly, products became their usual worth and the value of money was on the increase. Soon, the stage of stability was reached and life became comfortable once more.

Farmlife improved and Grandma, Grandpa, and their children developed the land further and made it prosperous once more. The Kotowich's had developed a feeling for the land, and despite all its harshnesses, they had become part of Alberta.

I can recall Grandma saying that she cried a great deal when she first arrived here from Poland — there were many times she would have gone back, if there would have been the money to; but now she says she is happy to be in Canada — in Alberta. Grandma still receives letters from family in the old country and she realizes that things have not undergone much change nor improvement in Poland. As a result, she finds it hard to understand how things here have progressed; for example fifty years ago she worked the field with a walking plow, and now my dad — her son — uses a forty foot cultivator for the same purpose.

Yes, Grandma Kotowich has seen Alberta grow and develop in every possible aspect; and from her I directly quote, "it is unbelievable!"

It makes me shiver, to think where I would be if that pair of newlyweds had not accepted the challenge of settling Alberta's land. Now, as my family and I farm an extension of that first homestead, the history of my grandparent's settlement lives on, strong and rich.

Last summer, Grandmother and I, went to look at the old homestead now located on the sides of a paved highway. It brought tears to her eyes to see the progress that had taken place, as many memories of toil and hardship lie within her. Nevertheless, it made her very proud to receive a Gold Medalion from the Alberta Government in honour of being a part of Alberta's 75th Birthday as a settling pioneer.

Susan Kotowich
Grade 11

HISTORY OF WALTER S. AND MARY KOTOWICH

by Walter Kotowich

In the year 1928, June 28th, my brother Ladislaw and myself arrived in St. Paul from Poland (village Krolewjski, County Rzezawa, province Bachnia). I was 17 years of age and we came to join our sister Mary Malek and her husband John in Lac Bellevue, who had come to Canada two years earlier.

I visited them for two days after my arrival and on the third day I went for a job. I got a job at Mr. Wiegerines, the pay was 50¢ a day cutting brush. At harvest, I got \$1.00 a day, but it was sure a long day.

I worked for different people for three years before I started farming on my own. I bought 160 acres for \$160.00, N.E. 35-56-9 with nine acres cultivated.

Working for farmers south of the river in the Myrnam area, Mr. Steve Stalmachuk gave, on top of my wages, a blind horse. Mr. Zazulak also gave me a horse, my third horse, I cannot recall who donated it, but I had to tie them together to bring them home, behind the saddle horse.

With these three sad animals, I started plowing my nine acres with a walking plow. When the land was tilled, I had to go back to the Myrnam rich farmers to buy some seed grain. The crop was fairly good, but I was a long way from being rich. Harvest was over, I decided I was old enough to be married.

I met the girl of my dreams 30 miles away from home at Flat Lake District. Mary Dudak, who came to Canada in 1929 with her family, Marco Dudak, her father, mother Pearl, two brothers, Tom and Bill and two sisters, Barbara and Sadie. They came from the village Ohrymowic, Zharnessis, Poland. We were married February 28th, 1933.

We rented a farm from Mr. Roman Semeniuk that had some buildings. There we lived for a number of years; I farmed the rented land, 1/3 crop share, and 9 acres of my own. Two years later, I



The Walter Kotowich Family — 1941. Back L-R: Stella, Mrs. Kotowich, Mr. Kotowich. Front: Mike, Ray, John.

broke ten acres and over a period of four years, I broke 70 acres with my horses. From these horses, I raised my own 8 horses.

In 1937 I bought my second quarter S.W. 1-57-9 from the Bank of Commerce for \$700.00. By working out a couple winters at the Bantin Mill near Helena Lake, raising a few pigs and selling some grain, I managed to make small payments.

I traded some lumber for my first two cows which were supposed to be very good milkers, the farmer said. I got them in the fall and wintered them. One was so old, she had no teeth. She died. The other one calved but she was so wild, we both tried to milk her and both got black eyes. So we bought milk from my brother-in-law for our first child. We had 4 children; Stella, Johnny, Raymond and Mike while living on the Semeniuk farm.

Soon it was time to move. It took a couple years to build our house on the shore of Lac St. Cyr. S.W. 1-57-9. The house was built from logs we harvested from the farms and plastered with mud. I also cleared around 20 acres with horses, also hiring John Burak, Nick Prodaniuk to clear brush by hand. Mike Skakun was hired out with his tractor and over a number of years, we also hired Jack Grant, Hector Garneau, Phil Comeau, and Demarce with cats.

I also raised sheep. I bought a ewe and she gave me triplets and that is how I got started. With these sheep, we sold wool, made our own stockings, mitts and scarves. I also bought a barn and when the boys got a little older, we milked 22 cows. We kept the cream in the ice house shipping cream once a week to town. At that time, we got \$1.75 a 5 gallon can. When a pig or cow was to be sold, it was loaded on a wagon or sleigh and taken to the Co-op buyers in town.

The children, Stella, Johnny and Raymond had gone to Lac Canard School. Mrs. Gadowski taught them. They had to walk 4½ miles.

After having moved to the lake, it was closer to St. Cyr School where Mrs. Ida Lamothe was teaching. It was 3 miles to school. Then Mike joined his brothers and sister. The children walked to school during the summer and used a small cutter in winter. In later years, the school bus came. The children walked 4 miles and as the roads improved, the bus came closer.

Living so near the lake, Johnny Laboucane and I trapped muskrats at spring breakup. I had a couple boats that neighbours used for fishing in the lake, during the summer. The neighbours' children and my own would play soft ball.

Lac Bellevue Hall had shows every once in a while and the children would go bareback on horses. A few neighbours and I got together and built an open air platform. One summer we had 4 dances. The boys from Lake Eliza played. A good time was had by all. We also played cards, visited with neighbours. We used cutters in the winter time

and during the summer, we used a democrat for transportation. Many times we walked.

When things were getting better, I bought a second hand steel wheel W30 Mc Cormick Deering tractor. In 1957, I bought a new Massey 44 tractor, and our last child was born, a daughter, Pauline. We lived at the lake quarter till 1955. Then we bought Joe Tessier's farm near St. Paul N.E. 2-58-1 continuing to farm there until my retirement in 1966. I sold my farms to my youngest son and bought a home in St. Paul where my wife Mary and I enjoy our children, their husbands and wives and our grandchildren and friends.

RUSS KOWTUN

by Evelyn Kowtun

Russ and Evelyn Kowtun moved to the Lac Bellevue area in 1976. Evelyn is the daughter of Jean and Ludwig Gadowski and was born and raised in the area. Her early schooling was taken at Lac Canard School with Mr. Jerry Petruk the teacher. She graduated from Glen Avon in St. Paul in 1964. Russ is a native of Mundare, Alberta — son of Sophie and William Kowtun. He took all his schooling at Mundare and then lived in Edmonton.

Russ and Evelyn were married on October 5th, 1968, and resided in Edmonton for several years. They moved to Nordegg, Alberta in 1970 where Russ was employed by the Solicitor General's Department at the Nordegg Correction Camp. They resided at Nordegg up until 1976.

In 1976 they moved to St. Paul and reside on Gido Gadowski's homeplace. The original house still stands in the yard.

Russ is employed by the County of St. Paul and Evelyn works for the Grazing Reserve Section of the Provincial Government.



Russ & Evelyn Kowtun — Oct. 5, 1968.

ANTON KRANKOWSKI

by Joseph Krankowski

Anton Krankowski was born in 1876 in Sniatyn, Woloczkowce, Galicia, Poland. Anton was the son of John and Rosalie (nee Pilishkicwich). He was the oldest of seven children.

Anton married in the year 1900, Anna Gawdunyk who was born the 23rd day of June, 1883 of the Roman Catholic faith. Her parents were Joseph and Maria (nee Goruk) Gawdunyk.

They had a daughter born to them in 1904. They named her Rose.

Anton Krankowski emigrated to Canada in 1907 and he worked on the railroad while sending money back to his family in Europe.

In 1911 Anton returned to visit his family in Europe. After about six months, he came back to his job in Canada.

In 1912 he left the railroad and bought a homestead for \$10.00 in Lake Eliza N.E. 31-55-8-W4th bordering the south side of Lake Eliza Lake. He built a one room house with a thatched roof made out of rye and hand dug a well. He also made a dutch oven of clay for baking bread. Then he bought a cow.

In 1913 he brought his wife Anna, his daughter Rosie and his father-in-law Joseph Gawdunyk to Canada to this homestead. There was plenty of water and lots of bush. They were happy about that because the wood supply was almost nil in Europe. They were assured of wood to keep their cabin warm.

Now as a family they started purchasing horses and farm implements and plowed a garden and then land for crops.

During 1914-15, as the depression set in, the railroads laid off most of their employees. Many of these people scattered looking for homesteads. Many of these people ended up in the Lake Eliza area where homesteads were still available.

Many of these people ended up at Anton Krankowski's place who was established by now. These people would get Anton to take them around the district to find a homestead that would suit them. If they succeeded in finding a place, he charged them \$2.00 which helped him pay for their keep until they had a place to move into.

In 1916, Anton and Anna had their first son born in Canada. They named him John.

These people worked hard and received very little for their labor, but they were happy to have all this water, wood and what seemed to them a big amount of land, 160 acres.

Anton had two brothers, Frank and Mike, who had come out from Europe later. They settled on farms in the area. They often visited and helped one another when required.

In January, 1919, their daughter, Rosie married Anton Cherniawsky and moved on to a farm about five miles north of her home place.



On the Anton Krankowski's first homestead — 1925. Back row: on horse John Krankowski, Tony Cherniawsky, Anton Krankowski, Anna Krankowski. Front row: Joseph Krankowski child in arms Kaye.

In May, 1919, Anton and Anna had a second son named Joseph.

Anton started a district store in 1920 and as the times were hard, the business was poor, so in 1922, he shut it down.

They had a second daughter born in March, 1921 and they named her Kaye.

In 1922, Anton Krankowski decided he wanted more land, so he had his father-in-law, Joseph Gawdunyk, who still lived with them, buy a homestead five miles north, S.E. 19-56-8-W4th. They built a house a pig sty and a chicken coop. They then moved to this farm and sold their first home to T.C. Ashworth. This new farm had good soil but the hills hampered successful farming.

It was in 1923 that he was happy to see his two sisters Helen Tymofichuk and Anne Lasichuk and his father, John Krankowski come to Canada to settle in the district.

In 1926, they had their third daughter and they named her Anne.

By this time farming did not seem to be a success for Anton was troubled by an ulcer. As his health failed, so did the farming.

By this time, 1926, the district was well settled so the local farmers decided to build a community centre. Anton donated a small portion of land to build a hall and it was named Lake Eliza Hall.

In 1929, Joseph Gawdunyk died at the age of 89 years and was buried in St. George's Cemetery.

By this time, Anton's health was failing rapidly and this set him out looking for greener pastures. He scouted around Peace River where farming appeared to be much easier due to so much good soil and no big hills. He filed for a second homestead between himself and his wife Anna and this gave them a half section. His wife, relatives, and neighbours tried to persuade him from moving but nobody was able to.



In 1923 — L-R: Joseph Gawdunyk, Tony Cherniawsky, child Johnny Cherniawsky.

He organized about five different farmers and made up a wagon train and in 1931 set out from Lake Eliza to Three Creeks, north of Peace River.

When they reached High Prairie, Anton took sick and was detained in the hospital, while sending his son John on with the wagon train. After spending a few days in the hospital his journey came to an end, as he passed away.

His wife Anna had no money to bring his body back home so he was buried in High Prairie.

Anna remained on the farm in Lake Eliza with her children trying to maintain the farm.

In 1938, Anna, with her children, built a new home and were mighty proud of it.

At about this time, their children started to spread their wings and one by one, left the farm.

John left home to work for farmers first, then worked in a coal mine, in the Crows Nest Pass. This is where he met Rina Pesisini who lived in Blairmore, Alberta. They were married in 1944 and a short time later, moved to Calgary, and built their own home; after a year or so, they sold it and this is where he got the idea of becoming a home builder and he did so under the name of J.K. Built Homes.

In 1964, at the age of 47, he passed away of a heart seizure in his sleep.

Joseph first left home in 1939 when World War II broke out, he took a basic training course in Camrose for thirty days.

He returned to the farm and shortly after left for Calgary and worked for a riding academy. He also worked in a coal mine for a short while.

In May, 1942, he joined the Army for active duty. He served with the Armed Forces until 1945 at

which time was discharged from the Army as World War II was coming to an end.

He worked for a feed plant in Calgary until 1954. Then John and Joseph bought a feed mill in St. Paul. It was called St. Paul Feed Mill. Joseph managed the plant plus a trucking business. After four years, they sold the business and Joseph farmed for eight years.

In 1962, he married Stella Wills (nee Gadowski). They moved to Toronto and after one year, his wife passed away.

In 1973, Joseph had a heart attack and a year later had open heart surgery with three bypasses. He was unable to go back into the work force. He moved to Calgary in 1974 and is presently residing there.

Kaye married Chuck Buckley in 1948 in Calgary. They had four children: Robert is presently living in Calgary. Kaye and Chuck then had a set of twins, a boy and a girl, Ronald and Roxanna.

Ronald is living in Calgary. Roxanna is married to Bill Winger and they are living in Phoenix, Arizona. They have four girls. Rhonda, Chuck and Kaye's youngest daughter is married to Bruce Williams. They are living in Toronto and have one son and a daughter. Kaye and Chuck Buckley make their home in Edmonton.

Anne married Eric Taplin in 1959. They have two daughters, Gina and Corrine. Corrine Taplin married Tim Paquette in 1978 and reside in Calgary. Gina is engaged to be married in April, 1981. Anne is also raising Jodi, her grandchild who was left as a baby after her mother Dianna died. Dianna was Anne's daughter by her first marriage. Eric and Anne still make their home in Calgary.

Anna Krankowski, the children's mother, resided with her son Joe and his wife Stella on the farm in Lake Eliza until the time of her death in 1964 at the age of 81. She is buried in St. George's Cemetery in the Stoney Lake area.



A pair of quiet work horses — L-R: Joseph Krankowski, Mike Rawluk — 1937.

WILLIAM & ADELINE KRANKOWSKY

William F. Krankowsky was born on May 25th, 1928 to Frank and Maria (nee Onyschuk) Krankowsky. There were ten children in the family. He attended school at Lake Eliza.

In 1954, he purchased N.E. 28-55-9-W4th from Tom Lasichuk and started farming on his own.

On November 10th, 1955, he married Adeline Boratynec, daughter of Harry and Mary Boratynec from Lake Eliza.

Adeline was born March 3rd, 1938. She attended grade 1-8 at Lake Eliza, then transferred to Myrnam where she completed grade 10.

The wedding was held in Lake Eliza Hall and the weather did a complete turn about from +40°F to -40°F before the evening was over. On the way home they were unable to climb Borchuk's hill with their '49 Ford and Adeline remembers Billy backing up to a grainary to shovel grain on for weight. The newlyweds had to take another run at the hill.

Their first born was a girl, Susan Judy, born in October, 1957. She died shortly after and is buried in Lac Bellevue Cemetery.

On September 15th, 1958, they had a son, Leonard Ricky. He attended Glen Avon School in St. Paul and then graduated from the Regional School in St. Paul. He played on the volleyball and basketball team at both schools. After graduation he attended NAIT for professional meat cutting. He is now meat manager and meat cutter at the Elk Point Co-op.



Christmas time December 1977, the Billy & Adeline Krankowsky's family. Front row: Adeline, Dale, Billy. Back row: Leonard, Laura.

On May 29th, 1962, a daughter, Laura Jane was born. Laura also attended Glen Avon School and graduated from the Regional High. Laura, an honor student, sang in the Glen Avon choir and played volleyball and basketball too. She is presently employed as a secretary at the University of Alberta.

Dale Darrel was born on May 24th, 1966. He presently attends Glen Avon School and plays in the school band.

Billy and Adeline were very active in the community and they could always be counted on to do more than their share.

Billy was always willing to go help a neighbour whether it was in the middle of the night or day.

Billy passed away suddenly with a heart attack on January 12th, 1978. He is buried at Lac Bellevue Cemetery.

Adeline resides on the farm with Leonard and Dale helping her farm.

JOHN KRANKOWSKI

by the Tymofichuk family

John Krankowski was born in 1849 in Austria, after occupied Poland, in the village Wolchkewcee, Sniatyn. When he was of age, he did not attend school, instead he apprenticed as a shoemaker. He later met and married his wife Katie and they have seven children. The oldest was Anton, then Frank, Annie, Mike, Katie and then twins Helen and a male child.

His main occupation was making shoes. There were no machines for cutting or serving and all the work was done by hand using a hammer, knife and a wooden shoe lass. The soles were nailed by using wooden pegs which were made out of very hard wood by hand. His assistant was his daughter Anne who later became Anne Lasichuk.

He also was a caretaker of a cemetery. He helped with the sick and the dead during the flu epidemic.

During the war, he looked after his grandson Nick because Helen was hiding away from the soldiers.

In 1923, he immigrated to Canada with his daughters Helen Tymofichuk and her two children Nick and Rosie and Anne Lasichuk and her son Tom.



Picture of John Krankowski — 1939 at the age of 90 years.

He lived with his daughter Helen Tymofichuk for years until Helen's family became crowded in the two room house and then he moved to live with his daughter Annie Lasichuk. Annie had only one child, Tom and there was much more room.

John passed away at the age of 93 years and is buried in Lac Bellevue Cemetery.

JOHN & MARY KRANKOWSKI

by Russel Paziuk

John Krankowski is the son of Mr. & Mrs. Mike Krankowski, an early pioneer family of the Lake Eliza district. John was born in Canada in the year 1913. In 1940 he married Mary Filipowich whose family was from the Myrnam district.

John and Mary farmed briefly in the Lac Bellevue district (1940-1942) on quarter section S.W. 18-56-9-W4th.



John & Mary Krankowsky wedding, 1940. Picture taken in front of their house at Lac Bellevue.



Lorraine & Ed Osterman wedding about 1957, in Hamilton.

To them were born three children — two girls and one boy who passed away as an infant. Their daughter Lorraine, married Ed Ostermon. They have 4 children. Donna, a second daughter, married Mario Cheechio. They have 1 child.

In 1942, the John Krankowski family moved from their Lac Bellevue farm to Hamilton, Ontario, where John became an employee of a steel mill until his retirement in 1979.



Donna & Mario Cheechio wedding, 1979.

MIKE & DOROTHY KRANKOWSKY

by Mary Lakusta

Mike was born August 25th, 1891 in the village of Sniatyn, Galicia, Poland. He was the son of John and Rosie Krankowsky. Mike had two brothers and two sisters, Tony, Frank, Annie and Julia.

His brothers came to Canada before him so he joined them at Kamloops, B.C. and got a job with C.P.R. in the Revelstoke area. He worked there for about three years, then decided it was time to settle down somewhere on the farm.

In 1913, he married Dorothy Godzuik, daughter of Fred and Annie Godzuik from Myrnam. Dorothy was also born in Poland. She was 11 years old when she came to Canada with her family.

Mike and Dorothy bought a homestead in Lake Eliza and built a log house. Their homestead was heavily wooded, so it meant a lot of hard work to open the land. They only had a walking plow, so it was not easy to open new land. There were many hardships but they raised 9 children on this place.

John, their first son, was born in 1914. When John turned 7, Lake Eliza School first opened its doors. John married Mary Philipowich and they have two daughters, Lorraine and Donna. They reside in Hamilton, Ontario.

Anne married Steve Krissa of Lac Bellevue who now live in St. Paul. They have three sons; Ludwig, Ronald and Thomas.

Bill, their second son, farmed with his father, Mike. After Mike passed away on May 13th, 1950, Bill continued farming the homestead with his mother Dorothy until 1960, then sold out and moved to Edmonton. His mother Dorothy moved to St. Paul.

Rose married Maurice Guindon of Lafond and raised 4 children: Raymond, Dianne, Jeannine and Lillian. Rose and Maurice are now living in Coleman, Alberta.

Mary married Mike Lakusta of Lac Bellevue and raised 3 children: Eleanor, Gail and Eric. Mary and Mike are now living in Edmonton.



Mrs. Dorothy Krankowski — 1927? Durand Car. Their first house thatched roof.



Dorothy & Mike Krankowski, their second house on original homestead — 1940.

Julia married John Krankowsky of Lake Eliza and they have a family of 4: Ryan, Darwin, Kathy and Carol. Julia and John now reside in Edmonton.

Katie married Donald Joseph of Coleman, Alberta and are now living in Calgary.

Pearl married Don Weiss from Fox Valley, Saskatchewan. They have two daughters, Debbie and Holly. Pearl and Don are presently living in Calgary.

Stella, the youngest, married Albert Pollack from Olds and raised four sons: Blake, Vaughn, Wade and Todd. Stella and Albert are presently living in Calgary.

Dorothy, at the age of 84 is now living at the Polish Senior Citizen Home in Edmonton.

THE TONY KRANKOWSKY FAMILY

by Mary Mistol & Jean Wysocki

Tony, son of Frank and Mary Krankowsky, was born on May 19, 1910 in Sniatyn, Austria. In 1913, at age of 3½, Tony, his older brother Joe, and his mother came to Canada. Tony's dad had come to Canada a few years earlier. They settled in the Lake Eliza district where Tony grew up on his father's



Family of Tony & Helen — Wedding of youngest daughter, July 28, 1973.

farm. He attended school at Lake Eliza during the summer months only.

On February 28, 1935 he married Helen Petruk (born June 2nd, 1917) at Lac Bellevue, daughter of Alex and Sophie Petruk. Helen attended school at Henley in Lac Bellevue for eight years. After their marriage, Tony and Helen took up residence on N.W. Section 32-55-8-4 in the fall of 1935. This place was the former residence of Tim Murray. They then proceeded to finish building a two room log house.

They started farming with the assistance of borrowed horses and machinery from their parents. A year later they bought three horses of their own. These they used to farm with for the next 5 years.

Tony spent the biggest part of his life doing work which really benefited the community. In 1938, he purchased his first used threshing machine. With this machine he used his brother Joe's tractor. In 1940, he purchased his own 22-36 McCormick Deering lug tractor. From then on he did custom threshing within approximately a 6 mile radius of home. It took about a month to complete a round,

depending on the weather. He continued this custom threshing until 1960.

Another of Tony's winter projects was custom chop making at home. He ground chop at \$2.00 a sleigh box full of grain. This was done mainly on weekends because during the week he went out sawing wood with a portable saw mill drawn by horses. He mounted a Model T Ford motor on a mandrel which he used for this custom work. If he was within range, he used the fence telephones to inform Helen and family of his whereabouts. He came home just for weekends.

When he bought his first truck in 1945 (a 1932 Chev), he used it very little for his own use. It was used mostly for doing favors for neighbours.

For about 35 years he did road maintenance for the Municipality of St. Paul (now known as County of St. Paul). He first started with pulling a grader with horses, then with a tractor, graduating to bigger motor graders. He ended his road maintenance career in January of 1975 when he broke his leg.



Helen & Tony Krankowsky — Wedding Feb 28/35. Sophie Melnyk (maiden name) Lena Chomyc (nee Petruk) Tony & Helen, John Krankowsky, Nick Tymofichuk.

Tony was also a very active trustee on the Lake Eliza school board.

All of these services which Tony was engaged in left a heavy burden on Helen. The major portion of the farm work was left to her. Many a fall I remember Tony cutting down the grain with a binder leaving Helen to stook about 50 acres by herself while he went on to help someone else cut his grain. A few small children and several times being pregnant with another child did not stop her from doing this hard work. Also during their earlier years of marriage, Helen did a lot of sewing for her own family as well as for neighbours. Her seamstress treadle sewing machine was hardly ever closed.

Tony and Helen farmed for 40 years; the first ten years on one quarter of land, then they rented one quarter from Frank Tatosky in 1946. They retired from farming in 1975. Their son, Raymond, is presently renting the farm.

Farming was very tough — not at all profitable. Many years in a row, crops averaged eight bushels to the acre. Farming was marred by hail and drought.

During these tough years Tony and Helen had 8 children born to them:

Jean, born January 11, 1936 (presently teaching at Glen Avon in St. Paul), married Mike Wysocki on July 12, 1958. They have three children — Donna, Debbie and Robert.

Mary, born September 2, 1937 (presently farming at Stony Lake — growing prize gardens), married Peter Mistol on November 18, 1955. They have four children — David, Terry, Jimmy and Kathy.

Steve, born December 19, 1938 (presently

teaching at Ashmont), married Marie-Ange Malo on August 7, 1965. They have two children — Laurie and Darwin.

Lorraine, born October 28, 1940; passed away in July 1941.

Irene, born September 25, 1943 (presently teaching in Edmonton), married Ed Starkevich on July 10, 1965.

Raymond, born May 14, 1945 (presently teaching at Ashmont), married Linda Hartley on July 17, 1971. They have two children — Ricky and Shelley.

Albert, born July 30, 1947 (presently teaching at Ashmont), married Deanna Hartley on October 20, 1973. They have three children — Mark, Lisa and Lana.

Lorraine, born October 28, 1950 (presently teaching school at Mallaig), married Marion Tchir on July 28, 1973. They have two children, David and Christina, and are expecting their third child.

Raising and educating the children did not come easy to Tony and Helen. During their earlier years of farming, money was not easy to come by. One year that really stands out in their memories is the year of 1941. It was in this year that they lost a baby daughter. Also, Tony got rheumatic fever and spent 32 days in the hospital. After coming out of the hospital he spent a year convalescing at home. After six months he had to learn how to walk all over again. At the time Tony was in the hospital, their daughter Jean also contracted rheumatic fever, spending time in the hospital along with her father.

Now on the lighter side of things. Shortly after Tony and Helen were married, there was a local store with living quarters being built on their place. The store was run for a few years by Joe Boratynec. Helen boarded the people who were helping to build the store and occasionally boarded Joe, the storekeeper. After Joe gave up the store, Tony and Helen had the store moved into their own house for two years. During the time they had this store, Tony



Alex Zalaski, Unknown, Charlie Krankowsky, Joe Tatosky, Johnny Krankowsky, Walter Krankowsky, Oscar Johnson, Dan Sheyka, John Paley, Lady in back ground Mary Iskiw (nee Zalaski) (Tony Krankowsky's threshing crew).

Also charged batteries with a wind propelled charger for himself and for neighbors. Throughout the years that Tony and Helen had the store in their house, the building that was formerly built as a store was used for local dances. No admission was charged. It was solely for entertainment in the community and surrounding communities. After this, John Rawluk took the store over from their house back to the building. Helen also boarded John.

In about 1941 or 1942, the store disbanded. It was then that Tony made a chop house of the living quarters and used the store part of the building as a garage for everyone who had a vehicle to repair.

In about 1947, the store was taken apart. Some of the lumber was used to build an addition to their house — the kitchen now.

Another incident that really stands out in our minds is that Tony and Helen's house was used as a gathering place for the local bachelors on Saturday night (after they picked up their mail at the local post office) and on Sunday nights to play cards. They played far into the night while Tony, Helen and the children slept. Many a time they were still playing when the kids got up for school. One incident really stands out well. Mary baked cupcakes for the school lunch (a real treat in those days) and the card players ate them at night! Result — Kids had no cupcakes for school lunch.

Presently Tony and Helen still live on the farm, enjoying frequent visits from their children and grandchildren. You can find Tony a lot on his bed, reading magazines and newspapers, a favorite pastime of his. Helen loves her garden. All summer she is in it or on her 2 acres of strawberries, hoeing out willows (which are a constant nuisance to her).

Throughout the years, Tony and Helen have not changed. Their hospitality is just as great as it ever was. Everyone is still made just as welcome at their home today as they were many years ago!

MARSHALL KRAWCHUK & FAMILY

by Marshall Krawchuk

Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Krawchuk had purchased the original farmstead of Stanley Yuschyshyn several years ago. This farmstead is a historical site with the Lac Bellevue Hall located on the same quarter section. Marshall came originally from the Elk Point area where his family was engaged in farming. After getting married and leaving Elk Point for St. Paul, Marshall went into school busing. Several of his busses have contracted the Lac Bellevue and Lac Canard routes. Thus, their farm serves as a base station, especially during summer months for these busses and others.

Both Marshall and Gloria are well known to the community. Gloria was a bank teller at the Treasury



Krawchuk bus line: Left to right: Gloria, Jamie, Kurtis, Marshall Busses hauling Lac Bellevue children to St. Paul since 1965.

Branch for nine years, while Marshall served on town council for a few years. Eventually though, they have relinquished their positions, they still maintain close friendships with their fine friends in the Lac Bellevue community.

KRISSA, GEORGE

George Krissa, son of Hipolite Krissa, was born at the Lac Bellevue homestead in 1918.

In 1944, George bought John Milan's land (S.W. 21-56-9-W4) and farmed it for four years. This land was bought by Harry Kryes in 1947, and George went to work for the Municipal District of St. Paul for a year.



Right to left: Freda, James, Linda, Maralyn. Back row are Parents, Maude and George holding grandson Jason, Freda's son.



Grandpa and Grandma Krissa with Freda and Maralyn.

In 1948, he moved to Lindbergh and was one of the carpenters who built the Salt Plant. George has been working at the Salt Plant ever since, and is presently Packaging Foreman.

On February 12, 1944, he married Maude Houzenberger, and they have a family of four children: Maralyn (Robertson) of Sherwood Park; Linda (Babenek) of Fort McMurray; Freda Ruf May of Winterburn; and son James of Elk Point.

HIPOLITE KRISSA

by Thomas Krissa

Hipolite was born in 1881 in Novae Santekez, Poland. Like the majority of the Ukrainian people in Poland at that time, Hipolite's family worked for various landlords. At the age of 21 (1902) he married young Annie Chehan. Annie was 14 years old at the time. Steve, the eldest of the family was born in Poland on November 15, 1912. Historically, Poland was under foreign domination at that time. The living conditions of the Ukrainian people in Poland were extremely difficult; not only were they subjected to the whims of the landlords, but they were often forced into the armies to defend a land which

was not their own. Thus just prior to World War I, Hipolite decided to move to Canada in search of freedom from oppression and wanting a better life for his family. Travelling across Germany the Krissa family boarded ship, the Gallenza, at Hamburg in May, 1914. While no details are available of the hardships of the crossing of the Atlantic to Halifax, one can speculate as the traumatic experiences of these people leaving behind everyone they knew and coming to a strange new world where even the language was not their own. There is not doubt that the courage and fortitude of these people was upheld by their dream of owning their own land and living in peace as masters of their new destiny.

The train ride from Halifax to Edmonton is remembered many years later by Annie Krissa as an endless trek through a strange new land and it was as if one was never to reach the promised destination. Once again the details of the arrival in Edmonton are not too clear. It was sometimes during mid-summer and the journey ended at Stony Plain where the family stayed temporarily with some Ukrainian friends. The following year in 1915, records show that Hipolite Krissa filed for a homestead on a site neighboring his friend George Kaszefski in the Lac Bellevue area, S.W. 28-56-9-4. In those days, one filed for his homestead in Edmonton and then was responsible to establish residency on his land. Hipolite left behind his family in order to build a house and clear enough land for a garden



Hipolite and son Steve and Annie Krissa. Photo taken in 1920.



Left to right: Children of Hipolite Krissa — 1950. John Krissa, Victoria Marchuk, Leona Makowecki, Antonia Severin, George Krissa, Mary Koweiluk, Bill Krissa, and Steve Krissa. Missing is Mike Krissa. Picture taken at the grandfather's homestead.

and the next year's crop. A year later the family moved to the homestead at Lac Bellevue. Hipolite and Annie were blessed with a family of 9 children: Steve of St. Paul, William of Powason, Ontario, Mary Hawreluk of Edmonton, George of Lindbergh, Leona Makowecki of Edmonton, Antonio Severin of Edmonton, Victoria Marchuk of Flat Lake, John and Mike of Edmonton.

Hipolite moved to St. Paul for retirement in 1952 and passed away on April 23rd, 1955. His wife Annie proudly lived in her own house in St. Paul until 1978 when she moved to the Parkland Nursing Home. At the age of 93, Annie Krissa is always ready to relate her memories as a true pioneer of Alberta. The dream that her husband, Hipolite, had in Poland has in fact come true. There is no doubt that opening a new land was by no means an easy task; the cold hard winters, early frosts, and hail storms were but a few of the elements these early settlers had to deal with. However, these people had nevertheless succeeded in becoming free and assuring security and prosperity to their descendants.



Mrs. Annie (Hipolite) Krissa — 1980 at age 93. Presently living at Parkland Nursing Home.

JOHN KRISKA

by Thomas Krissa

John Krissa, son of Hipolite, was born in 1927 at Lac Bellevue and took over his dad's homestead in 1952. On June 8, 1952 he married Helen Dolynny of



Family Picture. L to R: Ivan, John, Dwayne and Helen.



George Krissa at Homestead. Note: Left is first house built on Hipolite homestead. Right is second house. (1945).

Bonnyville. John was active in sports, in particular in the Lac Bellevue Ball Club. In 1956, he moved to Oshawa, Ontario to work with his brother Bill and returned to Edmonton in 1958. John is presently employed by the Provincial Government as a Heavy Duty Mechanic. John and Helen have two sons, Ivan and Dwayne.

STEVE KRISSA & FAMILY

Steve, eldest son of Hipolite and Annie Krissa was born in Poland, on November 15th, 1912 and as a child, moved to Canada with his parents. Steve grew up on his parents homestead and attended school at Lac Canard. In 1928, Steve filed for a homestead on S.W. 19-56-9-W4 in the Lac Bellevue area about 3 miles from his Dad's homestead. It is interesting to note that at the age of 16, a boy was expected to be able to make it on his own. Steve immediately set to work in building a house and clearing the land for cultivation. On November 3rd, 1936, Steve married Annie Krankowski, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mike Krankowsky of Lake Eliza. In 1938, Steve applied for the title to his land and had to file once again for his homestead because in 1928, he was only 16 years old and not of legal age to



The Steve Krissa Family, Top row: Ron, Ludwig. Bottom row: Annie, Steve, Thomas.



Steve & Annie Krissa, Wedding November 3, 1936. Musicians from left to right: Bill Halina, John Halina, Pete Gadowski, and John Paly.

apply for a homestead yet he had been living there for 10 years! In 1944, Steve bought his second quarter section of land from Edward Hancharuk, the S.E. 24-56-10-W4. From 1947 to 1960 he was noted for his threshing crew because he was doing custom work for the other farmers in the area. It is interesting to note that over 327,031 bushels of grain are on record as having been threshed by Steve's crew. Custom threshing in those days was a good example of the cooperation that existed between the farmers in Western Canada. When harvest time came around, groups of farmers got together to thresh their crops. One farmer owned the threshing



Left to right: Ronald, Annie, Thomas, Steve & Ludwig. Picture taken in 1950.



1956 Threshing. Steve Krissa's threshing outfit. Threshing at his brother John on the picture is Steve owner, next to his right is Steve Zuk. Standing is Dan Warawa.

machine and the other farmers brought their teams of horses and hayracks. The crew would go from farm to farm to bring in the crops.

Steve was not only a successful farmer, but also involved assuring quality education to the people of the area. In fact, he was Secretary of Lac Bellevue School for 18 years, from 1937 to 1955. Steve and Annie have three sons: Ludwig, Ronald and Thomas. The boys attended school at Lac Bellevue school 1½ miles away and also in St. Paul. Ludwig, born September 9th, 1937 married Natalia Koziar of Edmonton and they have three daughters. They are presently living in Edmonton. Ronald, born February 3rd, 1939, married Diane Gusnowski of Elk Point and have 1 son and 1 daughter. They also reside in Edmonton. Thomas, born May 27th, 1947, married Suzanne Malo of St. Paul and have 2 daughters. They presently live in St. Paul.

It would also be noted that when a person took a homestead, the land had to be cleared. One has only to visit the Lac Bellevue area to realize the courage and energy it required to first of all cut the trees down with axes, then the homesteader had to pull the roots from the hard soil, pick up the rocks and then laboriously plow the land in order to be able to plant the grain and hay crops necessary for survival. These pioneers proudly cleared the land and opened the country for their children.

In 1967, Steve sold his land to the Government of Alberta for a Community Pasture as did a large number of farmers in the Lac Bellevue area. Steve moved to St. Paul and worked for the St. Paul Co-op Service Center until his retirement in 1980. Steve

can now dedicate himself more fully to his favorite hobby, fishing: "Were I a fish, I would be concerned for my survival."

EDWARD KROCHMAL SR.

by Irene V. Krochmal

Edward was born July 2, 1929 in Morecambe. He was christened Adolphe but didn't like the name.

At 2 years of age, Ed suffered lung damage that left him sickly and thin.

He started school in Stony Rapids and in the winter he went to Lashnew School which was on his Grandma's quarter and he stayed with her, walking six miles on weekends, to go home.

After his parents moved to Lafond, he attended Chesterville School.

At the age of thirteen, this puny kid cut his first field of grain with his Dad's 15-30 International and a one-man control 10 ft. binder. He used both feet to release the clutch, then hooked it onto the fender. Then leaned over to shift gears. When about 16, he also built a variable control on the governor that worked so well, Jack Chester ordered the same for his 15-30.

At seventeen, Ed went north with his cousin's husband, Peter Lupul, to cut lumber for the farmstead. By this time, Ed had bought his first quarter from Jack Besnychuk.

One of Ed's dearest memories is of John "Jack Chester" as one of the best friends and fairest employers that Ed ever had. He restored Jack's 28 Buick and took over from his Dad, the job of chauffeur and maintenance man for old Jack. Whenever Ed drove Jack into town, Jack always bought full restaurant meals for them, which was really something in those days.

Courting days were memorable. Like modern day fellows, Ed used a "Van" too. It was a one-horse powered contraption people called a caboose. The interior was rather rustic with a wooden seat



Ed Krochmal's 53 Ford, Loading gravel at Journault's pit, for Lionel Gagne's new house.



Ed's home-built Truck 1950. Walter Sr. named it "Every" because it had everything. Cab and fender Plymouth Car. Grill, box, steering — 35 Chev. Radiator and chassis — 26 Chev. Rear end — Whipped Car.

and fresh straw on the floor. A little "wood burning" heater kept the temperature of the romance even and the windows frost free. No worries about gas, anti-freeze or batteries, just some feed for the horse and wood for the heater and two dollars for movie and treats. The movie cost .25¢ each for adults and .10¢ for children.

Little brother Walter tried to gain some experience by hiding behind the seat on one of Ed's important dates. When nothing happened and he thought he was far from home, he made his presence known. Ed made him walk back home, almost a mile.

Ed helped Jerry Lafreniere build a better "Van".

At 20 years of age, Ed set out for Redwater to find work in the oilfield. He got as far as St. Paul and joined the circus. Leader Shows were playing there and he got a job as handyman. The first day he replaced the lino in a trailer and that night he slept on that floor with only a blanket and saved his money for food. At Bonnyville, he got his chauffeur's License from the R.C.M.P. a \$5.00 brass button for his cap and a mug shot for his wallet. When Leader Shows reached Unity Sask., Ed turned 21 and was promoted to foreman of the merry-go-round.



Ed Krochmal Family — Feb 1981. Back row: Edward Jr., Irene, Edward Sr., Ester. Front row: Kimberlee and Wanda.

Never in a hurry, Ed took all day to set up, adjust, oil and time the machine which had fallen into disrepair. Mr. Odenski, the owner was happy again. Many a little girl and boy got free rides because they made homesick Ed think of Wally and Madeline.

When the the outfit crossed the Dunvegan ferry, a loose plank pierced the floor of the Male Lion's cage, unknown to the crew. By morning, at Rycroft, the Lion had chewed his way out through the floor. The crew in sleeping bags on the grass, took one look and zipped themselves in and waited. The Lion made his way through the sleeping town. Because he was well fed the night before, the police and Mr. Odenski could not lure him back to the trailer with meat. The police feared that early risers would be harmed, so shot the Lion behind the hotel. Mr. "Oddie" took it quite hard, he was proud of that great "cat".

Ed worked his way to Fort St. John before he quit the circus.

Ed then bought a 47 Ford Truck for general trucking business. He traded it in for a 53 Ford gravel truck. His trucking buddies were, Bill Zacharuk and Albert Chapdelaine. They used a caboose as home for many a gravel haul. The blankets froze to the walls in the winter but the sons of the pioneers survived.

In 1954, Ed was welding a gas tank which exploded and sent him to University Hospital. He had severe eye injuries and took a month before he could see again.

In 1960, Ed married Irene Fedoruk of Brosseau and took over his dad's half section.

Ester and Edward Jr. were born while Ed and Irene were in Lafond. Ed farmed, trucked and did a lot of shop work.

In 1966, Ed sold his land to the community pasture and moved his family to St. Paul.

He started, with his brother Joe and Bill Zawalusky a Bulk Sales Gas Station and in 1966 to 1975 worked with John Buryn. During this time he purchased Casper Schoch's homestead where the family now reside. Because of illness, Ed has had to slow down some, cutting down on his work.

Ed and Irene have a family of 4 children: Ester graduated from Grade 12 in 1980 and is finishing Beauty Culture in St. Paul. Edward Jr. is finishing high school, farming a bit in summer, working for the N.A.D.P. Kimberlee is in grade 9, Her specialties are Poetry and playing the flute. Wanda is in grade 7. Art, singing and playing clarinet are her favorite leisure time activities.

JOE KROCHMAL

by Lucy Krochmal

Joe Krochmal — son of Walter and Margaret Krochmal. Born June 12, 1933, in Morecambe,



Mark Miles Krochmal — 7 years.

I remember you

Mark

I remember the first day we entered grade one,
and the way we stood side by side.
I remember when the teacher put you in a corner,
and I felt so hurt that I cried.

I remember the times we'd switch our lunches
but keep the same bags so mom wouldn't know
And the times that we'd measure back to back
and they'd say "Kim, you've just got to grow!"

I remember the first time you rode your bike
without training wheels or Kenny around.
I remember the times I tried and failed,
cause my feet didn't yet reach the ground.

And now I remember that sad, rainy day
When I placed a white rose by your side,
When I clung to those memories we both shared,
When they lowered you down and I cried.

It seemed so unfair that God took you away
As if he'd taken a part of me.
The wonderful joys of living and loving,
and why? I just couldn't see.

I remember when I came to see you,
To add a little light to the dark
I bring fresh memories with me each time,
I remember and I miss you . . . I love you Mark.

By Kimberlee Krochmal

Alberta. When he was 4 yrs. old his family moved to the Lafond District. At the age of five, he was off to the one room Chesterville School House. In the beautiful surroundings of the country, where he got his education, grade one to eight. Some of the teachers and supervisors, that helped Joe accomplish his 8 yrs. of schooling were; Mr. Sopchysn, Mrs. Richenbough, Miss Theresa Fontaine and Mrs. Samburg. From a very young age he was a horseman at heart. At the age of eight, too small to harness teams from the ground, he climbed fences to help him harness them. One incident the family recalls, when they had a community picnic across the road from their home. The bigger boys gathered there with their horses, Rene Robinson picked Joe up, whom he liked a lot, and put him on his horse to ride. As the boys were playing baseball, they noticed Joe was having problems, his horse wanted to roll. Joe hung on for his life, Rene ran over and rescued him. It sure gave them all a scare. Joe loves horses and had many a run away. When his horse days were over, he traded his horse to Pete Kozak, for a 1925 Chev. car.

In 1950, Joe went to work at Wm. Christenson for the summer months. The following winter his sister Ruth joined him while the Christensons were at Denmark for the winter. The money Joe brought home, went for a down payment on thier first rubber tire tractor.

In 1955, when Joe's chores on the farm were done, he left home and went to work at St. Paul



Joe Krochmal Family. Back row: Bertha-Lynn, Kenneth. Front row: Peter, Lucy, Joe, 1980.



JOE & LUCY
KROCHMAL
 & FAMILY
County of St. Paul
1980 Farmstead
Beautification
— Winner —

Joe & Lucy Krochmal & Family County of St. Paul — 1980 Farmstead Beautification WINNER.

Sales and Service. He worked for \$175.00 a month, seeing no future in working, he ordered a gravel truck, 1957 3 ton Chev. It was about this time that he made plans to marry. On Nov. 23, 1957, Joe Krochmal and Lucy Aksenchuk were married in the Bethel Pentecostal Church in St. Paul, Rev. Michael Brandebura Officiated.

In 1959 he joined forces with Wm. Zawalusky, as an oil agent with Great West Distributors (Red Head), and served St. Paul, Lafond and the surrounding areas. In 1963, Bill and Joe purchased a Mobile Feed Mill which was beneficial to the farmers in the community. The Mobile Business was named Parkland Distributors. In the year of 1967 they sold their Mill business (Parkland Distribu-

tors.) to Hector Desaulniers, and sold their oil business to Paul Caouette. Joes love for the farm grew, and bought Andre Lamoureux's farm S.W. ¼ 32-57-10-W4M in the vicinity of Lafond. He moved on the farmstead the following year. In 1971 he bought additional land, Joe Neveu's and René Tremblay's. Today they have a cattle and hog finishing operation, with 1,350 acres in continual crop.

In 1980 Joe and Lucy were one of the winners in the Farmstead Beautification Award for the County of St. Paul.

They have a family of four children: One daughter & Three sons.

Bertha Lynn — is single and presently employed at the Alberta Housing in St. Paul.

Kenneth — Since graduation in 1979, is following in his father's footsteps.

Mark Miles — July 13, 1973, Mark passed away at the age of seven years, in a farm accident. He is deeply missed by his family and those of whom he touched.

Peter — Is in grade four and is attending Glen Avon School in St. Paul, Alberta.



Double 35th Wedding Anniversary — 1959. Left to right: Brian Aksenchuk, Mary Aksenchuk, Peter Aksenchuk, Walter Krochmal, Margaret Krochmal, Bertha-Lynn.

WALTER KROCHMAL SR. & MARGARET (NEE STRYCHUN) AND FAMILY

by Irene V. Krochmal

Walter, born in 1908 was the third child of Leshko and Euka Krochmal, who came to Canada in

1907 from Leshnew, Galacia. They settled in the Leshniw district sixteen miles north of Innisfree, with their children Jenny and Fred. The Leshniw School was built on their homestead. Leshko passed away of pneumonia in 1909. Tragedy struck again in 1918, Fred, age fourteen died of the flu.

Ewka remarried John Bandura from Mundare. Of this union one son was born, Joseph. John was killed while hauling wood, leaving Ewka a widow again.

Jenny, older sister of Walter married John Kudlac in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Both are deceased, their children are Edward, Effy, Mary, Jack, Rita, and Albert.

Joe, half-brother to Walter and his wife Ann live in B.C. They have two children, Joseph Jr. and June.

Now follows a history of Mrs. Margaret Krochmal's family:

In Shniriv, Galacia, Paul Strychun, son of Maxim Strychun, married Ewka Ewanko. They lost their first born at birth. Ewka passed away leaving Paul with four small children: Clara, eight, John, six, Rose, four and a one week old baby, Mary. Within a year he remarried Olena Praymak and shortly after in the 1900's they came to Canada and settled in the Peno district north of Mundare. There Olena's first child Anne, was born.

Paul searched for work for many weeks without success. Homeward, dirty and hungry, he stumbled onto an Indian camp and collapsed. Through the night they fed him and in the morning he thanked the man and set out for home, taking notice of the insides and paws of some muscrats, which may have been his soup. ha!



Margaret Krochmal — 1959.

Later on they lost another baby, Pearl, six months old. Katie, Lillie and Alex came next. Alex passed away at the age of four of diptheria.

Margaret was born August 2, 1910 and when she was two years old, the family moved to Naughton Glen, sixteen miles north of Innisfree, where her brothers Paul Junior and Eli were born. The family was very poor because of their father, Paul's health.

Clara married Tom Kosakewich in Edmonton. John worked in different mines in B.C. until his death in 1955. He never married. Rose married Ole Paulson of Manitoba.

Mary at 17, went to babysit at Penners in Innisfree. Because she was so tiny, she looked much younger. Penners had a brother-in-law, Mr. Dickey, who was a plumber in Spokane, Washington. When he visited the Penners, he had false adoption papers ready. He promised Mary a trip to the States, and a safe return. When he came to her parents, who could not read or write and had them sign some papers, they never dreamed they were signing their child away for life. Mary was taken to Spokane and told what to write home.

Paul and Olena were grief stricken and could not understand why she would desert them. The Dicks took six other children from Canada on the same pretense and had them work for them.

A husband was chosen for Mary, Lloyd Bell. She didn't get to see her parents till her five children were grown. When she came home, her father had been dead many years, but her mother was so glad to see her precious Mary before she died.

Mary and Lloyd are now deceased.

Annie married Harry Lott — eight children — both deceased.

Katie married Nick Kutryk — four children — Nick deceased.

Lillie married George Hedalin — one son — George deceased.

Margaret married Walter Krochmal — eight children — Walter deceased.

Paul because of his disabilities worked for Eli — Paul passed away.

Eli lives in Edmonton and has children.

Walter Krochmal and Margaret Strychun were married, February seventh, 1928 in St. Martins Rectory, Vegreville, Alberta. Before moving to Lafond in 1938, they lived on different farms south of Morecambe. The move to Lafond was considered a great distance. Friends and family came to see them off. For the children: Ed, Joe, Lily, Ruth and Shirley, it was a great adventure. Besides the plowing and threshing and seeding, cattle had to be fed, rocks picked and the never ending yard chores.

Walter and his sons ran a grader on municipal roads for extra money and taxes. Winter found them sawing wood all day and crushing grain at night. Walter taught his boys blacksmith and mechanical skills when they were quite young.



Walter Krochmal Sr. — 1957.

Some of the girls took up their mother's gardening, sewing, and baking skills for which she was locally known. The children attended Chesterville and then Lafond School. Walter, Madeline and Linda finished in St. Paul. Ruth had many friends. Ed remembers the owner of a 52 Maroon Monarch, who after seeing Ruth, left in true "Dukes of Hazard" style off a hill in the yard, not knowing the other side was cut to form a loading dock for the gravel truck. Ed was sure the landing was heard in Lafond. He doesn't remember them coming back.

By the time Walter and Margaret moved to St. Paul in Nov. 1960, Lily, Ruth and Shirley were married and Ed was on his honeymoon. Walter Sr. was ill by this time and in 1963 passed away.

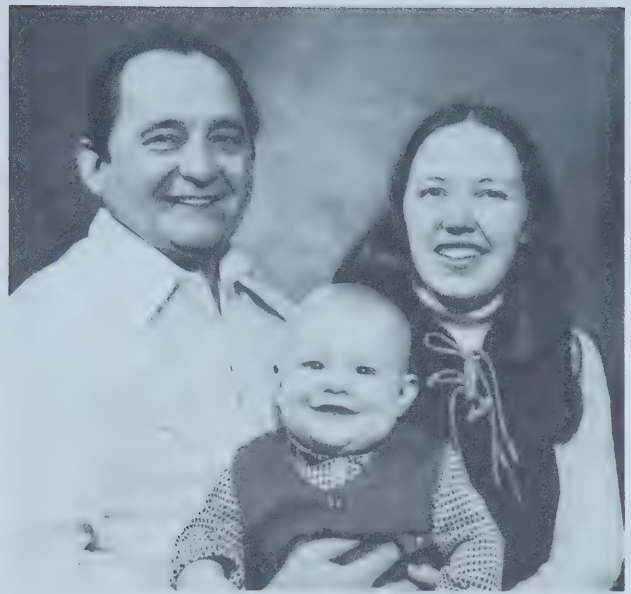
Margaret continues to sew, babysit, and visit her shut in friends. She now resides in the Heritage Homes. She loves house plants, pretty china, sewing, flowers, her children and grandchildren, and baking cookies for the numerous little faces that pop up on her doorstep.

But above all, she loves and endeavors to serve her Redeemer to the best of her abilities, until he calls her home.

THE WALTER KROCHMAL FAMILY

by Linda Fedoruk

Wally, was the youngest boy born to Margaret and Walter Krochmal, and he was also named after his father. Wally took most of his schooling in Lafond, and as he reached high school became a favorite of his teachers who were mainly nuns. He did well in school, and when he put his mind to it, could do almost anything. Some of his teachers wanted him to go in for a Priest, others encouraged him to become a vet. He has become neither, however has done some veterinarian work at home



Walter, Ellen and Danial Krochmal.

one day. Once there was this sick pig, one that was ready to die, so mom and dad told him to go kill it, so it wouldn't suffer anymore. Well, guess what, Walter decided to play vet, and he operated, fixed up what he thought was wrong, then sewed the pig up again. Guess what? The pig lived, and grew up and was sold on the market.

Wally was a great tease, and because he and Madeline were close in age, she was his favorite target. Poor Madeline, teasing just wasn't her style, but one day he cured her. He was teasing her as usual, and she was angry as usual, and as she was pumping water, let go of the handle so she could hit him, and smuk!! the handle connected her tooth and chipped it. Well, she stopped getting angry at his teasing, and well, teasing her was no more fun. Walter did other naughty things as he was growing up, such as standing the tractor up on end, imagine the shock and near heart attack everyone had when they saw his stunt. I often wonder if he didn't almost have a heart attack too, at the time. However, as we all look back on these things we can now laugh.

One terrific thing has happened in his life — he turned from a wild life to one of serving the Lord and other people. He also married a wonderful little girl, Ellen Domet. Ellen is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Jack Domet of Two Hills. Walter and Ellen have a lovely little family of three. Danial, their oldest was in 1978, a year later, in 1979 came another bundle of joy, Michele. Then on February 17, 1981, with great joy, they could announce the arrival of their third, and it was a beautiful little daughter.

At this time Walter and Ellen are living in Prince George, B.C. and he is teaching and preaching the word of God to many. We praise the Lord for the life he is now living.

MR. AND MRS. JOHN KRYs

by Nettie Tymko

John Krys was born in Chertkow Ukraine in 1896. He was one year old when his parents decided to move to Canada. He lived with his parents in the Zawala area near Andrew. In 1917, he married Annie Yarmie a neighbor. They lived in that area for six years and raised three children.

In the year of 1923, John Krys and his family came to the Lac Bellevue area and homesteaded on S.W.¼ 15, twp. 56, range 9, west of the 4th meridian. On this homestead they raised the remainder of their family of twelve children.

The family went through many experiences together. They depended on each other for strength during these times of hardships. One particular tragedy, involving my father's faithful workhorses, remains with me still. It occurred when by some accident the horses got into a granary of wheat. The poor ignorant animals ate wheat until they were filled, not knowing the dreaded fate awaiting them. They were very sick when they were discovered. My father called a neighbor to bleed them. All attempts to save them failed. One by one five horses died. For the first time in my life I saw my father cry.

Not all experiences were tragic, there were also many humorous events which I remember. One



John Krys



Annie Young (Nee Krys), Mother Annie Krys (Nee Yarmie), Jane Pawliuk (Nee Krys), Mike Krys (baby).

which I remember particularly was when my older sister made borsch. Everyone was sitting at the table enjoying the meal and complimenting my sister Kay on her delicious soup. Midway through the meal, Kay suddenly had a peculiar expression on her face. She put her hand to her mouth and extracted a boiled, pale, green frog. Everyone soon left the table, not feeling particularly hungry anymore.

My Parents have both passed on, (My father on April 6, 1960) (My mother March 10, 1973) but they still live in our memories.

The following is a resume of the Krys family's whereabouts and occupations.

Bill: Is still single and working in Edmonton.

Jim: Is also single and farming in the Lac Bellevue area.

Mary: Is presently living with her daughter in Seattle, Washington. She married Fred Schrader (Now deceased) and has four children: David, Gerald, Ken and Gloria.

Peter: died at childbirth.

Paul: Is a prosperous farmer in the Vermilion area. He married Edna (Nee Paterson) and has seven children: Kenny, Murray, Pauline, Anton, Peter, Diana, and Ricky.

Kay: Is presently living on Vancouver Island. She married Walter Moore and they have eight children: Orelle, Gary, Sharon, Danny, Glen, Glenda, Allan, and Barbara.

Helen: Is presently residing in Calgary. She married John Adamarczuk (Now deceased) and they have five children: Belinda, Brian, Lorne, Lance, and Carmen.

Steve: Is living in the Lac Eliza area. He married Jeannette (Nee Linkewich). They have three chil-

dren: Randy, Yvette, and Lily.

Harry: Is still a bachelor and he is farming in the Lac Bellevue area.

Sophie: Died at one year from polio.

Nettie: Is living on a farm in the Lac Bellevue area. She married Harry Tymko and they have four children: Leslie, Arlene, Lyle, and Anita.

Mike: Presently residing at Olds Alberta. He owns his own business. He is married to Brenda (Nee Williams). They have three children: Jonathan, Jeremy, and Jamie.

DAN KRYVENCHUK

by Jeanette Haskins

Daniel Kryvenchuk was born in Chirnivchi, Bukovina, Romania, son of Rosie and George Kryvenchuk. In approximately 1910, the Kryvenchuks immigrated to Canada and somehow made their way to Musidora, Alberta, where other relatives had already homesteaded. They then moved to Irma and then to Myrnam where they settled and lived all their lives. In 1929, Daniel met Maria Babey, daughter of Katrina and Steve Babey and in February of 1930, they were united in wedlock. They first settled on a farm near Myrnam and shortly thereafter moved to Angle Lake where Mary gave birth to their first son Walter, who unfortunately died when he was 7 months old from a flu virus. Though the grief of their loss was great,



Dan and Mary Kryvenchuk — 1976.



Lester Kryvenchuk Family — 1980.

Mary and Dan got through it and moved to a farm in Lake Eliza. In August of 1934, Mary gave birth to Lester. After taking in several years of crops in Lake Eliza, they bought a quarter section of land in Lac Bellevue where they farmed for 35 years more or less. Jeanette was born in November of 1948 completing Dan and Mary's family. Lester started school at Henley School in Lac Bellevue and when he was 15 years old, he left home to go to work in St. Paul at the foundry.

Jeanette started school in St. Paul and graduated from Glen Avon in May, 1967, at which time she left home to go to work in a bank in Edmonton. Both Lester and Jeanette married and live in Edmonton where Lester makes a living as a plumber and Jeanette as a banker. Sadness befell the family in October of 1974, when Dan suffered a severe heart attack and spent over a month in Edmonton



Dennis and Jeanette Haskins.

in the intensive care unit of the Royal Alex Hospital where thankfully they saved his life. In April of 1975, Dan and Mary had to sell their farm and move to St. Paul so that Dan was close to the hospital. To the family's distress, Dan died in October of 1977, and sorrow fell over the family. Mary still resides in St. Paul where she keeps close to all her friends.

THE KRYVENCHUKS OF STONY LAKE

by Lena Kryvenchuk

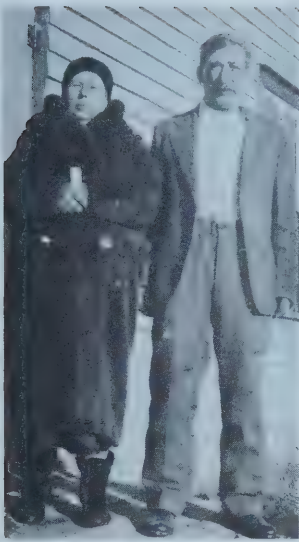
George Kryvenchuk and Frozina Drutzul were married in Chernivtsi, Ukraine, about the year 1899. In 1900 their first son, Joe, was born. The following years Bill and Dan were born. Around 1905 George decided to go to Canada to see what life was like here. For five years he worked on the railways and other jobs to save enough money to bring his family to Canada. He had to go back to the old country to travel with them because Frozina would not travel alone with the three small boys. When George returned to Canada — about year 1910 he filed for a homestead in the Musidora district where John, Mary and Sankey were born. The Musidora farm proved very rocky so when he got a chance to trade it for a farm in the Irma district he made that trade and that's where their last child, Fred, was born. While the land proved to be better than at Musidora, there were no trees available for building. Their two roomed house was built of two-by-fours filled with mud clay and siding on the outside, which turned out quite durable, the walls were whitewashed on the inside. This being a settlement of other nationalities kept Frozina very isolated since she only understood the Ukrainian language. In 1924 George sold his land in Irma and bought a quarter section of land six miles southeast of Myrnam which was among the Ukrainians and Frozina was quite happy with their new home. They farmed this land until their retirement to Myrnam, where they enjoyed a few years of relaxation. They have passed on since and are both interred in the South Slawa Cemetery.

Dmetro Sorochan — after serving his designated time in the army and saving every graytzar paid him during his service, was able to leave his native village of Knyzee, Ukraine, for Canada, since there was no future in his native land for him. His father's land plot was already so small there was nothing to divide among the other two boys and two sisters the family comprised of. He arrived in Canada about 1910 and was ready to settle down. When he heard that Katerena Ferbey, from the same village, came to Canada with her parents, brothers and sisters and was working in Vegreville, he looked her up and they were married in 1912. They made their home in Edmonton where their daughters, Mary, (Mrs. Steve Metrunec, Myrnam)

and Annie (Mrs. Sam Oleksy, Edmonton) were born. In 1917 Dmetro bought a farm at Stony Plain and that is where Lena — who later married George Kryvenchuk's son Sankey — was born. Dmetro knew very little about farming so they only repaired the buildings and planted a garden, made the place as attractive as possible and traded the farm for a restaurant in Edmonton. He then sold the restaurant and bought a farm at Musidora where Sophie (Mrs. John Prodaniuk, St. Paul) was born. They farmed this land for three years in which time they experienced hail, frost and drought. After three years they made a sale and moved to Vegreville where the family lived and Dmetro worked in the mines. The last mine he worked was Drumheller surface mine — he was reluctant to go back to underground mining after the Hillcrest disaster. After the Drumheller mining job he got a job with the railway. He had to make the move from Vegreville to Vermilion where he was going to be stationed with the railway. While the move was being made he took the family to the farm at Slawa — Katerena's brother's place — where they discovered that Jacob, Katerena's brother, would sell the half quarter section for \$500. They bought the half quarter and began farming again. The sale he had at Musidora was not a cash sale so he was able to reclaim a few cows, two horses and a few pieces of machinery that were not paid for. It was here that their last child Zory (Mrs. Mike Kurpil of Mannville) was born. Katerena died in 1940 at the age of 51 and was buried in the South Slawa Cemetery. Dmetro sold the farm and retired to Vernon, B.C. He passed away in 1947 and is buried in Vernon, B.C.

Lena went to school in Slawa till grade 8 then had to go to Vermilion to high school. At the time there were just the three Sorochan girls, Mary, Annie and Lena, going to school away from home in their area, and the tuition fees had to be paid by the ratepayers of their district. This created quite a bit of resentment among the ratepayers towards their father. While going to high school they had to work for their room and board as there just wasn't money enough from home. When school was out Lena worked for \$8 - \$9 a month doing housework.

Sankey started school in Irma. When they moved to Myrnam district he went to Uhryn school till grade 8 and that was it, for education for him. In 1934 Sankey and Lena got married in the Roman Catholic Church in St. Paul. For two years they lived and farmed with Sankey's parents. The next two years they lived with Lena's parents and helped farm their land — Dmetro had added more land to his half quarter. Anyway at the end of four years they had accumulated the vast sum of \$500 and in the spring of 1939 they moved to a farm near Capital School that belonged to Sankey's brother



George and Fronzina Krevenchuk 1932, and Dmetro and Katerena Soroohan 1929.

Dan. That spring, April 1939, their son Ralph was born. They rented this farm for one summer and in the meantime made arrangements to buy the Eric Fjelstrom farm in the Stony Lake area. They moved there in November 1939.

All their personal possessions and furniture made up one hayrack load, including Ralph in the baby crib. The baby crib deserves special mention because it had a history all its own. It belonged in the Rudolph Piotrowsky's family where it raised some of their eight children. After they had no more use for it, it was lent out to other families that needed it and eventually Sankey's got the use of it. By the time they didn't need it anymore the Piotrowsky's were beginning to have grand children and it went back to the Piotrowsky's family again.

The other two loads of their moving outfit were made up of chickens, geese, pigs and garden vegetables. Steve Josul helped. They moved into an old two room, tall log house with an upstairs area that was sliding out of shape and had to be wired together. On windy days the wire would creak and Lena never left the kids alone in the house. She'd take a feather quilt out by the garden and place the kids on that to keep them safe in case the house chose to fall down. The roof was tar paper and boards and walls had to be whitewashed inside.

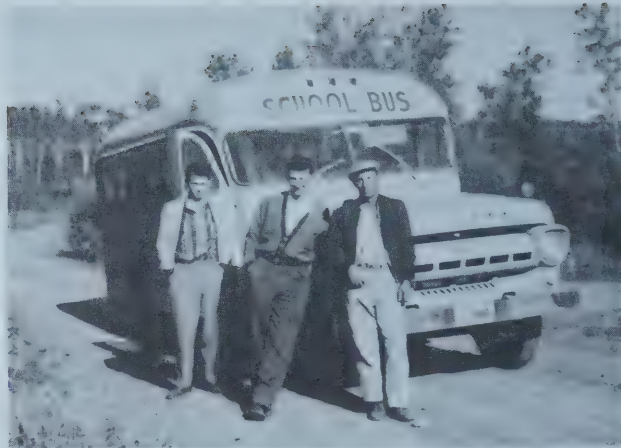
When they first came into the area they got their mail from Stony Lake Post Office, which was situated on the north shore of Stony Lake and was kept by Captain Edwards. When Captain Edwards passed away, the Post Office was closed and the mail was delivered by Mr. Hobden from Armistice. Mr. Hobden was delivering mail to Lake Eliza every Saturday and dropped the mail into a mail box. With the closing of the Armistice Post Office they had to go for their mail to St. Paul.

In August 1940, their son Delmer was born. The following years were spent in cutting logs to put up buildings, like a barn, granaries, a chicken house and a house. It seems like any tree that had any character at all was chopped down for buildings and there was no problem to get a neighbor to help. Everybody respected a good log or a straight board in those days. Sankey put up the out buildings himself for there was no money to hire a carpenter. When the barn was ready to be shingled a can of cream had to be sold and a bundle or two of shingles were bought and put on the roof, then work would come to a stop until more cream could be sold. (Later this barn burnt down and almost took Ralph's life since he was trying to save his pigs.) On the house he did most of the work himself but when he ran up against a snag there was always Arne Bjorneskaret, who was a carpenter by trade and lived a little ways north of their place. Arne was not equipped to farm at the time because he made a living at carpentry, so Sankey would cut his grain and do other jobs that required doing and Arne would come and do the difficult jobs that had to be done in building the house. It took them four years to put the house together at a cost of \$900 but when it was done Lena felt it was quite an accomplishment.

Sankey kept every heifer born on the farm since milking cows was a major source of income, but he always ran up against the problem of being short of feed since he only had 45 acres under cultivation, (later he bought the quarter directly east of his farm, from Mike Skakun). It was neighbors like Metro Demchuk — who always let him have a few loads of straw and Steve Yakimovich who always spared him some hay — that didn't let Sankey go under. One year Steve was away at a logging camp for the winter and Sankey was running low on feed so he wrote to Steve about getting some hay. The letter he received from Steve nearly required extra postage but in it was all the explanation as to where the stacks were and what stack he wanted to save for spring work and what stack Sankey could go to and get his hay. One year when the district was hauled out and there was no spare feed in the area available, Sankey went across the river and purchased a large stack of straw from John Porcina. Since he didn't need all that straw and couldn't afford to pay for it he told his neighbors about the stack. There were as many as ten neighbors taking straw and helping him pay for the stack. Hence, the whole stack was moved from the Briarfield district to the Stony Lake area. Mike Drobot was another neighbor with a helping hand. Sankey ran out of pig feed one time and asked him if he sold some feeders would Mike sell him some grain to finish the rest. Mike didn't think that was a step forward, he told Sankey to come get the feed, finish all the pigs and then either bring feed back after



First Krevenchuk house built by Sankey. L-R: Delmar, Lena, Ralph, and Sankey on far right in front of bus.



threshing or pay for it. Another neighbor that helped Sankey over tight spots is Joe Krankowsky, if you needed cash Joe was able to let you have a few tens.

Sankey often talks about his first drill. His neighbor to the east, Bill Yurchak, also had no drill so they decided to go together on purchasing a drill. They found a second hand drill in St. Paul — price — \$45. As there was no cash available, Sankey gave the dealer a horse as down payment then he and Bill had to make a payment after threshing and the balance in the spring. Does anyone still wonder why there was no mention of inflation in those days?

Refrigeration on the farm was an ice house, meat couldn't be kept very long during the warm months of the year. In the summer the neighbors took turns in butchering and would share the meat. When Sankey's turn came to supply the steer to be butchered he was a bit edgy, so he talked to his cattle buyer, Mr. Skarletski, who told him to take the steer off the green grass and put him on hay and grain for about two weeks, which should make good beef. Sankey brought the steer to the barn and told the boys it was their job to see that he got hay and a portion of grain everyday. (Incidentally the steer's name was Dagwood, and without any questions asked, the boys were pleased to pamper Dagwood.) One day as they came from school and Metro Demchuk came from the south with a butcher knife and Mike Skakun came from the west with a butcher knife all Ralph said was "They came to butcher Dagwood" and shut himself in the bedroom. Delmer just quietly walked out of the house and disappeared. Needless to say they weren't hungry enough to eat every time there was beef on the table.

The vegetable garden played a prominent role in the lives of the farmers. It was almost unheard of to get rid of your surplus until you asked around to see if someone could use it. Lena remembers a

time when she was preparing supper and Mrs. John Cherniawski stopped in while hunting for some calves. She noticed that Lena was peeling very small potatoes because they were hailed out that year. That week they all went to Lake Eliza Hall to a picture show — which was a bi-weekly recreation in the area — Mrs. Cherniawski was there and asked Sankey if she could ride home with them. When they brought her home there was this sack of large potatoes she had all ready for him to take home. One other time Lena remembers, is meeting Alex and Lucy Smereka in St. Paul and Alex told her about their plight of being hailed out and they were harvesting potatoes the size of crabapples. Lena, complying with the customs of the district, told Alex to come and get what surplus they had, which Alex did. He was very thankful — saying — "God Bless you, God Bless you. I hope you get hailed out next year so I can do the same for you."

Sheep were an important part of their farm as they supplied wool for anything that could be knitted, supplied quilts and mattresses for the beds and certainly kept the yard trim. The women of the district saved their old woolens and new fleece wool and grouped together to ship this collection to mills in Winnipeg. They received nice woolen blankets at affordable prices.

Ralph and Delmer started their education in Swedeboro School, which was situated one mile south of the farm. There was no road to the school from the north so they followed the cow path that led to it. The teachers who taught in Swedeboro during their term in school were: Roger McMillan, Mrs. Mazur, Mrs. Fithen, Mary Swanson, Martha Rawliuk, Marshall Yaremkevich and Eddie Gadowsky. They also had supervisors — Lilly Krochmal and Alma Roman. When they completed their grade eight they went on C.W. Cooper's school bus to St. Paul. They walked a mile to get on the bus. In 1956 the Swedeboro School was centralized to



Ralph's Family: back: Ralph and Lynn. front: Darrell, Marlyne, and Karen.

Elk Point and Sankey got the bus route, so the boys completed their high school in Elk Point. Since Dell skipped grade 3 and Ralph took his grade 12 in two years they both graduated at the same time — May 1958. Before Ralph wrote his exams he applied for a job at the Toronto-Dominion Bank in Elk Point because — as he put it — he didn't want to be pushed in University. The summer after graduation Ralph went to work in the Bank and Dell got a job at Banff with Brooster, who kept riding horses for the tourists. In the fall Dell came home and entered University. Ralph worked for one year in the Bank, which he didn't like because — "you had to be trussed up like a turkey in shirt and tie and you looked out the window and there goes a guy pushing a wheelbarrow without even a shirt on." Ralph quit the Bank after a year and entered The Tech School in Calgary taking Auto-Mechanics. On completion of his school term he went to work for Wallie's Service in Calgary and worked there for five years. Dell's vocation required four years of University — he was taking Electrical Engineering. Every summer between school terms Dell worked for the Department of Highways in the Fork Lake, Lac La Biche, Bonnyville and Cherry Grove areas. After Dell got his degree in Engineering he got a job in Edmonton with the Alberta Government Telephones.

For a time the Farmers' Union Organization was the center of the farmers' interests. They worked together on such outings as picnics and other social gatherings. The only thing Lena had against it was — that after the boys left home she was considered the ideal person to be sent to the Farmers' Conventions, since she had no kids at home. The district conventions were not bad but the provincial conventions took you to Calgary and Edmonton. The truth was she was terrified of the cities and such places as the McDonald Hotel in Edmonton and Palliser Hotel in Calgary, where the conventions were generally held. She was sure that when

she went inside these vast buildings she would never find her way out again. She always insisted that for the farmers they should have some simple one story building to go to.

In the meantime the refrigeration of the farms got modernized. They were able to rent a locker in the St. Paul Co-op Store and keep their perishables in it. Lena really enjoyed the locker. It was nice and clean, no more putting up with all that saw dust that went with the ice house. The only time she tasted wild moose meat and elk was when Elsie Laboucane — who also had a locker there — would trade wild meat for farm butter. Anyway the Co-op Store burnt down and so no more lockers. Something had to be done. With the boys away, Sankey having the school bus to drive, farming, a bunch of cattle to look after, Lena's hands gave out so she couldn't milk too much, it was getting to be too much to cope with, so Sankey made a decision. He was not getting the power, for \$1,200, for the farm if one of the boys was not coming to farm. He would sell the cattle and invest in a filling station and get Ralph to come and take over. When he called Ralph, he wanted no part of running the filling station but he also didn't want Sankey to sell the cattle, he was coming back to farm. Sankey bought a lot in Elk Point — price \$350 — and started building a house in town. In 1963 they moved into Elk Point to retire. It was the saddest time of Lena's life to leave the house the boys grew up in and to move away from that neighborhood.

Upon retirement from the farm Lena went to work for the Toronto-Dominion Bank as Clerk Typist. She held this position for sixteen years until she had to give it up for health reasons. Sankey on the other hand had to give up bus driving for health reasons, but still works part time at the Liquor store



Delmar's Family: L-R: Delmar, Shannon, Deric and Norma.

— a job he has had for seventeen years, — done occasional guard duty for the Police and spends a lot of time on Ralph's farm.

In 1964 Ralph married Marlyne Berthot in Calgary and came home to farm. Ralph took the power and added three quarter sections more to the original farm. Besides farming and driving the school bus, Ralph, being a natural artist, teaches art during the winter months. Marlyne raises a flock of chickens and turkeys every year, plants a garden and works as Secretary for the Elk Point Elementary School. They have three children: Lynn born June 8, 1965; Darrell born November 30, 1966; and Karen born October 10, 1967. Lynn took the opportunity of going to Mexico with the Girl Guides in the summer of 1980. Their children are all attending school in Elk Point.

Delmer married Norma Flint in 1965 in Lloydminster. They lost an infant daughter, Shelly Ann, in 1966. She is buried in the Lloydminster Cemetery. They have two children now: Shannon born May 10, 1967 and Deric Sankey born February 28, 1973. Delmer and Norma live in Edmonton where their children are attending school. Norma is very devoted to growing flowers and having a nice yard. The summer of 1980 they were awarded the prize for the most attractive yard in Blue Quill area. Norma also supervises at the Sweet Grass School which is only a few blocks from their home. Dell is still employed by Alberta Government Telephones. Working for A.G.T. has enabled him to see a good portion of this continent. He had to go on business trips to Chicago, San Fransisco, Vancouver, Nova Scotia, Toronto, Ottawa — as he put it — he has seen both the Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans. In the summer they come to the east quarter, which is their land now, and set up camp and plant a garden.

KWIATKOWSKI FAMILY

by Lorraine Kwiatkowski (nee Gamache)

I was born in Bonnyville, Marie Georgette Lorraine Gamache on November 7, 1931, sixth child of Pierre Gamache and Beatrice Fex, I went to school for twelve years and graduated from Fort Kent School. In 1949-50, I attended the University of Alberta and received a teaching certificate.

On August 25, 1952, I married George Kwiatkowski from Bordenave, Alberta. Even though I stayed employed as a teacher, we farmed in the Goodridge area for close to twenty years

I raised ten children: Robert, Genevieve, Leo, Edna, John, Peter, Amelia, Kathleen, Laurence and Benjamin from 1953-1969 and came to Lafond in the fall of 1971. It was to answer an ad in the St. Paul Journal. The school, under the principalship of Mrs. T. Theroux, needed a Bi-lingual catholic



Wedding Picture of Mr. Mrs. Pierre Gamache, Sept. 2, 1919.

teacher. I was qualified for both. Prior to school opening I came to Lafond and talked to Father Tetu, the parish priest, also to Councillor Rodolphe Cote. Since I lived fifty miles away, it made one hundred miles a day to commute. My 1968 Meteor had poor tires, so it meant fixing flats along the way. By November, the drive proved to be an ordeal, so I moved into a holiday trailer that was placed by the School. I kept on going home on weekends as I had eight of my children going to school but they'd fend for themselves on weekdays.

My children were used to being responsible for each other since I had raised and taught some of them while teaching at Larkin, Goodridge, White Rat, St. Lina, Therien and Mallaig. It was routine: work to do before and after school and looking after the two youngest at night.

The winter wasn't too mild and when the propane tank jelled at 2:00 a.m. I had only one alternative, go finish my night's sleep in school. There was a bed in the infirmary and the school was warm. Mrs. Theroux was alone then, so I spent the rest of the year and two more years after that room-



Mrs. Pierre Gamache, her mother 97 years old, Mrs. Delphine Fex (nee Therrien) taken in Bonnyville Nursing Home; where both were patients in 1969.

ing and boarding there on week-days.

In 1971, I taught the Grades 5 and 6 class. I remember there were three girls named Thérèse in that class and Lilian could play Yatzee like a Pro! I had them plant spruce trees on the West side of the school. I think two of them are still there! In 1972, I took over the Grades 1 and 2 class. Beginners had been my previous experience. I kept those grades, plus grade 3 and one year, grade six was added to 1, 2 and 3 because the enrollment wasn't too high.

In March of 1975, I rented a farm house from Douglas and Mary Foster of Terrace B.C. and moved to the Foisy district with the four children in elementary and Jr. grades: Benjamin was in Kin-



Lorraine and George Kwiatkowski's Wedding Picture 1952.

dergarten, Laurence was in Grade 2, Kathleen was in grade 5 and Amelia was in grade 7. In 1979, I began fostering children. On January 3, Wanda and Connie Cardinal came and stayed with us until May. In July, Barrie Berland came and left in August. In September Darryl Wilk came prior to school opening and has been with us since.

In September 1980, I was transferred to Mallaig School but kept my residence at Foisy. My sons Robert, Leo and John are farming in the Goodridge, Therien area. Peter is presently employed at Nelson, B.C. working as derrick man for High Tower Drilling. Genevieve is employed as Data Computer for Can Am in Calgary. Edna got married to Rick Church on May 17, 1979 and gave birth to my first grandchild, a son on December 29, 1980. They



Pierre Gamache Family in 1946:
Back row: Roger, Pierre (father)
Sr. Lucille Gamache, Grey nun,
Denis, Edmond (deceased in
1959). Kneeling: Alida (Mrs.
Edward Kwiatkowski) Beatrice
(mother) Lorraine: Seated:
Bernard, Gaston.

called him Jesse Michael. Amelia is also employed in Calgary. She's a bookkeeper for a Printing Company. Kathleen is staying with her sisters and attending John Diefenbaker High School in Calgary. She's presently in her 11th grade.

JOSEPH AND FLORENCE LABANT (NEE O'NEILL)

by Florence Labant

On November 12, 1955, Florence, second eldest daughter of Gus and Florence O'Neill married Joseph Labant eldest son of Petro and Mary Labant, farmers in the Owlseye area. We started our life on the farm just north of Cork Hall. Our oldest daughter was born while we were living in the old house which still stands north of the Hall. When Debbie was 8 months old we purchased a farm from Mike Drozda and moved into a house that was older and in poorer condition than the one we had just moved out of. We lived for 4 years in what was known as the Old Burkholder House. If the old walls could talk what stories they could tell I'm sure. The old-timers still talk of the dances that were held there. One of the orchestras that played at that time was Pat Paul and Oscar Missel.

Our two sons Brian and Myron were born while we still lived in that house. It became necessary in 1960 to build a new home as the health and safety of the children became very apparent. We had many chimney fires and pipe fires from burning green wood in the Air Tight heater.

In April 1963, Donna was born and in June we lost our son Myron in a farm accident. He was three years old at the time. The following year Shawna came along and the year after that Lorna was born. The children attended school at Ashmont and took part in many school activities.

In 1972, Debbie married Ernest Melnychuk and they are farming in the Spedden area. They have three children, Stacy, Corey and Angila. In 1977, Brian married Patricia Connor of St. Brides and they



Joe Labant's Family: Donna, Brian, Debbie, Shawna, Lorna, Florence and Joseph.

have one son Christopher. The three younger girls have among their list of accomplishments, taken 6 years of Ukrainian Dancing, traveling 35 miles to Glendon to take instructions.

On November 15, 1980, Joseph and I celebrated our 25th anniversary with a large number of friends and relatives in attendance.

At this time, we farm 900 acres of land in the Cork area and Joseph owns and operates his own Backhoe Business. We have been active in local organizations such as Cork Hall, Progressive Conservative Assoc. and the U.G.G. Local in St. Paul. Joseph was chairman for U.G.G. for many years and I have been Sec. for them for 6 years.

THE LABRECQUE FAMILY

by Leonora Martin (Labrecque)

My father Adolfe (nicknamed Duff) LaBrecque was born in Quinnesec, Michigan. As a child he moved to the Chesterville district with his mother and father, an older brother, an older sister and his twin sister. His brother Alphonse is in his late 80's or early 90's and is living in Hawaii. His older sister Eva married Tom Clark and lived in the Chesterville area for several years. His twin sister Celia married Pete Jacura from the Foisy district and after Pete's death, she married Hector DuHamel originally from St. Paul. She passed away in January, 1980.

My mother Josephine Laflamme was born in Gaspé, Quebec and also came to Alberta with her parents and brother and sisters at an early age. They settled in the Lac Bellevue district. She married my father on March 9, 1922. The wedding ceremony took place in Saddle Lake. They lived in a little shack on the shores of Lac Bellevue where mom gave birth to my oldest sister Pauline and a few years later, mom and dad were blessed with a boy that died from pneumonia at one year of age.



Adolph, Raymond and Sifroi Labrecque in front of their house across the road from Chesterville School.



Duff and Josephine Labrecque.

They then moved to Chesterville in a house across the road from the school. They had 3 more children while living there, Marcel, myself (Leonora) and Raymond. In approximately 1939, we moved to Elk Point and went into the pig business in quite a big way for those times. However, we only lived there for about 3 years and moved on again. This time we went to New Westminster, where Dad worked in a paper mill. We only stayed there one school term and moved back to Chesterville on our old place again. We lived there for about six years and were on the move again. This time we moved to Hartell, for about a year and came back to Chesterville once more. After a few years, mom and dad



Aug. 18, 1961, Georgette and Alphonse Labrecque in front of their home

opened a butcher shop in Drayton Valley but didn't stay there very long either before moving back to the old place in Chesterville. Finally in 1964, they moved to St. Paul and after that, dad moved back and forth to Chesterville and to St. Paul but mom settled in St. Paul permanently. On June 6, 1976 dad passed away. He had known for about one year that he had cancer. Mom is now living at Heritage Homes # 3 St. Paul, Alta. T0A 3A0.

Over the years dad sold Watkins, Rawleigh, Paula and Familex products. He also peddled fresh meat and material by the yard. This was mainly his way of making our living. He really believed in all sorts of herbs.

Pauline married Ken Wevers from Vancouver. They had 2 boys and 1 girl, Ken, Qimm, and Cheryl. They now have 6 grandchildren. Their address is 23270, Westminster Hwy Richmond B.C. V6V 1C2.

Marcel was married to Betty Wiedman from Leduc. They had 2 boys and 1 girl, Larry, Brian and Linda. They have 2 granddaughters. His address is Box 116, Nisku, Alta. T0C 2G0.

Raymond was married to Georgette Roberge of St. Edouard and they had 2 children, Alphonse and Jacqueline still at home. Raymond lives on the farm across from the school that had been mainly our home base. His address being Lafond, Alta.

I am Leonora (nicknamed Lou) and I married Henry Martin from St. Vincent and later St. Paul. We had 1 boy and 2 girls, Danny who married Colleen Gongos from The Brosseau district. They



Pauline, Leonora, Raymond and Marcel Labrecque. Their home in Chesterville.

have 3 boys, Robert, Russell and Scott and live in St. Paul.

Donna married Karl Gongos, a brother to Colleen and had a girl and a boy but unfortunately on October 16, 1977, Donna and her little boy were killed in a car accident.

Janice our youngest daughter is still at home.

We live in the St. Brides district on a farm. We have renovated our barn and have a new and used furniture & appliance store in it. Our address is St. Brides, Alta., T0A 2Y0.

I have given all our addresses so if anyone wishes to contact any of us, we will be very happy to hear from you.

JACURA KNOCKS OUT GUY CHAMBERLAIN IN SECOND ROUND:

extract from "St. Paul Star" 1922.

Preliminary bouts were awarded Labrecque and Sansregrais.

Brunelle's hall was the centre of interest of St. Paul's sporting fraternity last Monday evening, where the boxing match between Pete Jacura and Guy Chamberlain scheduled for 10 rounds, was to take place, and a big crowd was on hand sharp at 9:30 awaiting the opening of hostilities, which were inaugurated with a rattling good 3-round preliminary between A. (Adolph) Labrecque and Jos. Beauchamp. The former was given the decision on points. Beauchamp gave his opponent a good deal of trouble all through and in the opinion of many has all the earmarks of a good little fighter. It is rumored that these two boys will meet in a 10-round affair later on. Should they do so, boxing enthusiasts here may expect full value for their money, as the boys are evenly matched and willing to mix from start to finish.

The second bout — Jack McLean vs. Geo. Sansregrais — was an interesting exhibition. Sansregrais being given the decision.

Referee Tomlinson then introduced Pete Jacura and Guy Chamberlain, the contestants in the main bout of the evening. As Chamberlain entered the ring it was seen that he was the possessor of a particularly good muscular development and he appeared to be quite capable of giving an account of himself, though shorter in reach and a few pounds lighter than Jacura.

Both men started in top speed, Chamberlain succeeding in landing first — a stiff jolt to the body. Jacura cornered with a hook to the jaw, dazing the Lake Eliza boy, who from then on was in distress and was only saved from a knock-out by the sound of the gong for the end of the round.

It was apparent that Chamberlain was in no condition to begin the second round and within 45 seconds Jacura floored him with a right to the jaw and a left hook to the body for the count.

The loser, it must be said, won many admirers in the audience by this exhibition of gameness. Though repeatedly floored he came right back and took his punishment until counted out, and had Jacura been any less clever the bout might have lasted well into the 10th round.

The winner, Jacura, has a strong following in St. Paul, who are naturally jubilant over the result of the encounter.

It is probable that an effort will be made to match Jacura and Reuben Bull of Goodfish Lake. Bull is fairly well known here as a boxer of some merit and is said to be capable of making the St. Paul favorite extend himself.

FAVORITE SAYINGS OF SOME OF THE OLD TIMERS I KNEW

by Ray LaBrecque

Jack Chester would always say: "Tut, Tut, well, well, well, what do you know about that."

Tony Gregoraschuk, better known as Old Tony. When talking about his hunting experiences referred to deer as (saint mutton in French). He always said some people say it's hell to be poor but it's nothing to be poor, it's hell to be old.

Mr. Hruska would come to visit at our place and before leaving he would start to tell an interesting story but before he finished he would say: "Oh that's a long story. I'll tell you next time" and with those parting words he would be gone.

Old Sam Walkeruk made his home where ever he hung his hat. His specialty was plastering log buildings with mud. He was also a very good cook. He preferred to stay with someone who had a battery radio so he could listen to the news and then, when he moved on, he could tell everyone what was going on in the world. When he talked about someone he didn't like, he would say: "Crazy fool, don't know nothing about business. "Sam passed away in about 1964 and is buried in the Dominion Cemetery in St. Paul.

René Marion lived around Chesterville for several years. In the spring of the year, many evenings I would hear René fiddle when he would sit in front of his shack and play tunes such as, "Turkey in the Straw or Blue Skirt Waltz". René moved to St. Paul in his later years where he passed away a few years ago.

THE BIG PRAIRIE FIRE OF 1910

When my Dad, Adolph LaBrecque came to Chesterville as a boy, there was lots of dry trees and windfalls. In the fall of 1910, the LaBrecque family could see a fire coming from the west. It was just a roaring. They had a garden patch fenced, so they put their two horses and milk cows inside and prepared to fight the fire, before it reached their

buildings. Mr. Chester mounted on his pinto horse, pulled his hat over his eyes and came right through the fire to help his neighbours. The fire had passed Chester's Homestead two miles before. With Mr. Chester's help all the LaBrecque's belongings were saved. That was the first Prairie fire my Dad had seen, but definitely not the last.

SIFROI LABREQUE

by Josephine Laflamme

Mr. Sifroi Labreque was born in 1857, in Beaumont, Quebec, six miles below Levis. The family moved to Lambton, 75 miles south, where they lived for a number of years.

In 1887, he married Sara d'Aigle in Sherbrooke, Quebec, when he was 30 and she only 17. They lived there for some time. This is where Alphonse and Eva were born. Then Sifroi took his little family to Michigan, U.S.A. where work was more plentiful. It is here that Adolphe and Celia, twins were born.

In 1908, Sifroi had been hearing so much about Western Canada, Alberta especially, that he decided to come to take a homestead. As all the other settlers from the East, he and his son Alphonse, travelled by train to Vegreville, then by stage coach to Duvernay, where they were delayed three days by the ice break-up and everyone had to wait until the North Saskatchewan River was clear before they could safely cross.

He and his son Alphonse then walked to Lafond. They stopped at Charles B. Lafond's house for a drink of water. There they heard of homesteads nearby. They then hurried to the Saddle Lake Land Office to file.

They then walked back towards the homestead. En route, on crossing a creek, full of fish spawning they soon stunned a few and had a good meal. When they arrived at the homestead, they chose a site, cut some logs, built a cabin, putting poles

and sod for a roof. They dug up about half an acre for a garden patch and sowed potatoes and a few vegetables from which they got 168 bushels of potatoes.

Then Alphonse went back to Quebec to get the rest of the family: Sara the mother, Eva — 14 years old and the twins Alphonse and Celia, then 10 years old. Sifroi met them in Vegreville with a team of light horses, which some called drivers, others cayuses. They bought a wagon and loaded their belongings in it, headed for the homestead. The roads were only trails, slippery as it was raining, so the going was slow. The banks of the river, wet and slippery, were hard to climb, by the unshod horses. Rain in the night forced the family to take shelter under the wagon. Finally, the next day, they reached the homestead.

Slowly they built up their stock, broke more land and then, fifteen years later, had an auction sale and moved to the Lac Bellevue area where the oldest son, Alphonse had a homestead. Sifroi built another log house where he and his family lived for three years. Then he bought a house in Duvernay where he and his wife lived until her death in 1926, aged 58. She was buried in the Brosseau Cemetery. Sifroi died in 1940, 83 years old.

Sifroi Labreque was a natural herbalist. He had cures for many ailments, just a concoction of herbs, roots, barks of trees or even the wood itself, was most effective. Many are alive today, thanks to this man's knowledge of these simple remedies. In the early days, when doctors were so few and far between, it must have been a godsend to have a man such as Mr. Sifroi Labreque in their midst.

RAYMOND LACOMBE

by Raymond Lacombe

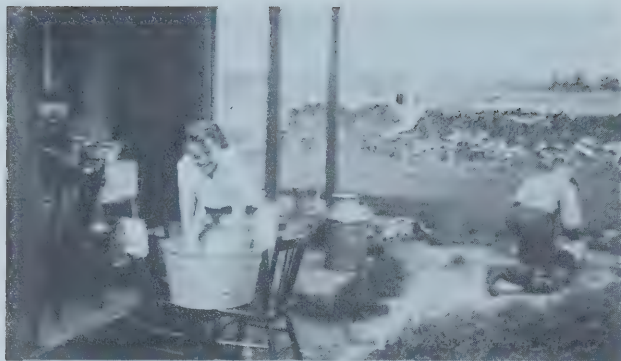
I, Raymond Lacombe, son of Alphonse Lacombe and Blanche Belanger was born on March



Taken Approx. 1924. Back row: Sifroi Labreque, Joseph Laflamme. Middle: Sara Labreque, Eugenie Laflamme. Front: Jeannette Labreque, Rose Laflamme, Antionnette Laflamme.



Raymond and Denise Lacombe Family: L-R: Suzanne, Denise, Raymond, Yvon. Sitting; Ramona.



Washing Day — 1952 at Emile Malo Homestead. Laurette and Denise Malo hard at it. Emile Malo Kneeling.

10, 1935, in Bonnyville, Alberta. I was the 6th born child in a family of seven, consisting of four boys and 3 girls.

I attended school in Bonnyville. In 1949 my father passed away from a heart attack. In 1951 my youngest sister died of Leukemia.

In the fall of 1951, I went working in a lumber camp, for one winter. After this, I was employed at Brosseau Department store in Bonnyville. At the age of 17, I moved to St. Paul and worked first at the Co-op, then St. Paul Beverage, also Beaver Lumber. In 1953, I started as salesman for toast-master Bakeries Ltd. till the spring of 1965. My last move was when I purchased Germain Lafreniere's farm, two miles south of the Hamlet of Lafond, namely N.E. 19-56-10-4, and began farming, something I had always dreamed of doing.

In 1957, I married Denise Malo, youngest daughter of Emile Malo and Camilla Foisy. We have a family of three, one son, two daughters. Yvon, born Oct. 15, 1958, now married to Linda Crywull from Edmonton, on Sept. 9, 1978. They reside in Edmonton. He is employed by Iron Co. as a Journeyman in welding. Ramona, born Oct. 29, 1959, married Rodney Logozar, on June 27, 1977. They reside in Two Hills and have 2 daughters, Jessica and Crystal. He is employed by Western Truck Body in Two Hills. Suzanne our youngest daughter, born Jan. 4, 1965 is now finishing her high school at the St. Paul Regional School.

Raymond is very active in community life. He has been Golden Hour Club President since the opening in 1972. He has served on the Recreation Board for the County of St. Paul for the last six years. He is also Chairperson for the writing of this History Book. His greatest hobby is fishing.

YVON AND LINDA LACOMBE

by Ramond Lacombe

Yvon Lacombe, born October 15, 1958 to Raymond Lacombe and Denise (Malo) Lacombe. Attended School in Lafond from grades 1 to 8, grade

9 in Racette School and finished his high school in St. Paul Regional.

After finishing school, he moved to Edmonton and started employment at Ironco Iron Works Ltd. He has been working there for the last 6 years and plans to stay there a while yet. He has now received his Journeyman Ticket in Welding.

In 1978, he married Linda Crywull of Edmonton. They have made their home in the Millwoods area. He enjoys fishing and camping very much.



Yvon and Linda Lacombe (Nee Crywull) 1978.

FRANK AND WILFRED LADEROUTE

Frank and Wilfred were born to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph and Josephine (nee Callaoo) Laderoute. They had five sisters: Mary, Philomene, Mary-Jane,



Wilfred Laderoute on homestead in Many Lakes 1938.

Gertrude (Gurdy), and Bessie. When Frank got a homestead in 1929 in Many Lakes, the old folks moved there also. Joseph Laderoute freighted from Vegreville to St. Paul with wagons called "Brain Wagons". When the railroad came to St. Paul in 1915, he quit freighting.

At 18 years of age, Wilfred homesteaded in Many Lakes just north of his brother Franks' quarter section. He got married in 1936 to a girl from Lafond. This girl was Alvina Vaillancourt, daughter of Delphis Vaillancourt.

In 1939, Frank sold his homestead to Louis Valet for fifteen dollars and he and his brother and the rest of the family moved to Kikino. Frank and his family now live in Hinton and Wilfred and Alvina now live in Provost.

JOSEPH LAFLAMME & EUGENIE HENLEY FAMILY

by Mrs. Josephine (Laflamme) Labreque

Joseph Laflamme and his wife Eugenie with their children — Philippe, Eugenie, Josephine, Yvonne, Claudia, Zelia and Jeannette left Gromont N, Quebec, to come to Alberta.

My parents had heard that large farms could be had as a homestead for \$10.00. In the East, land was hard to come by and stony in many places and there was no chance to expand.

We left our home town on June 1, 1912, and took the boat, a big one, to go to Montreal. Then we found out that if we waited until Aug. 14, 1912, we could get cheaper tickets - \$10.00 for an adult and \$5.00 for each of 3 older children. This took us to Winnipeg. Then other tickets \$4.00 for adults, \$2.00 for each of the three oldest, took us to Vegreville, Alberta. There a man with a three-seated democrat, drove us to Lafond. He stopped at Mr. Emery Theroux's in Duvernay and at Mr. Nazaire Robinson's to change horses. We stayed at Mr. Nazaire Robinson's and the latter drove us to Mr. Joe Henley's, Mrs. Laflamme's brother and my uncle, 6 miles east of Lafond. We arrived at Mr. Joe Henley's at midnight. What a day!

My father made arrangements with Mr. Wilfred Cloutier for the family to spend the winter in his house, at Lac Sante, where Pierre Brault lives today. During the winter, Philippe, 12 years old, went to work for Mr. Auguste Lavoie. One year's wages were one good milk cow, which was really needed for the home. Eugenie, 11 years old, went to stay at Mr. & Mrs. Johnny Brosseau's where my dad was working. She was there two years. Josephine 10 years old, went to stay at Mr. & Mrs. Edmond Brosseau Jr. I stayed for 2½ years, attending school for part of the time, doing housework and caring for the children during the remainder of the time.

Dad had taken a homestead at Lac Bellevue and later Philippe took one also. We lived there, on the

homestead for 30 years. Then, dad and mom and Philippe sold their homestead and moved to Meadow Lake, Sask. They stayed there for 12 years. Then mom and dad came back to St. Paul, bought a little house and lived there until their deaths, mother on May 22, 1955 at the age of 67 years, and dad on July 23, 1959 at the age of 90 years. Mom and dad's family:

Philippe, married (Regina) Leona Chaise at Meadow Lake. They had 8 children: Marie, Joe, Rose, Manuel, Patricia, Leo, Elizabeth, and Marcel. They live at Horsefly, B.C.

Eugenie married Donat Noel at Lafond on June 3, 1916 and passed away in 1958. They had 10 children: Camille (deceased), Cecile, Leontine, Ovide, Roger, Henri, Paul, Olivier, Georgette, Bertha, Roland, Marcel (deceased at 3 yrs. of age). Josephine married Adolphe Labreque at Saddle Lake. They had 5 Children: Pauline, Raymond (died 1 yr. old) Marcel, Leonora (Lou), Raymond.

Yvonne married Bruno Routhier. They had 3 children: Aline, Germain, Eugene. After Bruno's death she married Alfred Routhier. They had Mariette, Ramona, Roland and Solange. Yvonne now is living at a Senior Citizen's Home in Lac La Biche. Claudia married Reese McGinis of Stony Lake. They had 8 children: Claudia, Kenneth known as Buck, Bertha, Mavis, Linda, Donna, Keith. Reese died at home in 1979 and Claudia is still on her farm. Zelia married George Robinson of Lafond. They had 7 children: Doris, Maurice, Beatrice, Patric, Francis, Delphis, Alice. Zelia and George are retired in St. Paul. Jeannette died when 9 years old, buried in Lafond. Antoinette married Walter Yakimovich from Lake Eliza. They had 3 children: Adeline, Adele, Timothy. Rose married Emile Dubois in St. Paul. They had 5 children: Raymond, Edward, Eugene, Antoinette and Emilie. Rose died at the age of 27 years in McBride B.C. and was buried there.

LAFOND, CHARLES BORROMÉ SR. & FAMILY

by member of the family

Lafond was named after Charles Borromé Lafond Sr., first postmaster who came to the area in 1907.

Charles B. Lafond was born in St. Antoine de La-Baie, Quebec. His parents Joseph and Dorothée, farmed. As far as we know he had only one brother, Zotique.

Charles, married Victorine Eloi Julien on December 28, 1833. She was the daughter of a merchant in Quebec City.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lafond had a family of seventeen. To provide a livelihood Charles moved



Miss Annette Lafond.

to Central Falls, Rhode Island, U.S.A. where he and his older sons got employment in factories. The older girls worked in the J. & P. Coats thread mill. The younger children were educated by Irish nuns thus making them bi-lingual.

Mrs. Charles B. Lafond died of a stroke on January 7, 1903 at the age of 59. She was buried in Central Falls, Rhode Island, U.S.A.

After the death of his beloved wife, Charles was lured away from the U.S.A. by the homestead fever, and the call of the west. He returned to Canada in 1906. Three sons accompanied him. They were Aimé, Charles Borromé Jr. and Joseph. In 1907 the Lafonds settled in the area which bears their name. Later Zotique's three sons, Leonard, Urbin and Romulus left Quebec and they also settled in this area.

Two years later Blanche and Annette joined their father. Annette attended to the duties regarding the post office and the household. Blanche taught school for three years at Foisy.

Joseph did not adapt to the life of a farmer. He went north with surveying parties. Then he moved to Los Angeles where he became an engineer. He died of pneumonia while he was on a trip to San Francisco.

Shortly after the arrival of Blanche and Annette, an older sister who had married Paul Farley came west with her family. They came to live at Charles B's home.

It was at this time that Blanche married Jean Baptiste Brosseau on June 4, 1910. The newlyweds moved to a homestead in Brosseau.

While John and Blanche were still in Brosseau Charles B. Lafond Sr. died on November 21, 1930 at the age of 90, victim of an accident in his home.

Aimé Lafond died of cancer at the age of 83.

Charles B. Jr. who had become a Justice of the Peace for the district fell victim to an accident near his home. He died in 1946.

Annette sold the farm after the Farley children were educated and on their own. She worked at the rectory in Rimbey for Father Murphy. Later she moved to the Sr. Citizens Home in Ponoka where she died in 1975.

LEONARD LAFOND

by E. Gouin

Leonard Lafond, son of Mr. and Mrs. Zotique Lafond, was born on March 1, 1870, in the province of Quebec, at La Baie du Febvre, today Baieville.

In 1892, he married Ernestine Gouin, an aunt of Evariste Gouin. They lived in Quebec for a few years, then in 1896 moved to Manchester, Mass. where Leonard worked in a grocery and meat shop and in time, became a full-fledged butcher. His wife, Ernestine worked in a clothing store.

In the States, as in Quebec, the slogan "Go West, young man" was popular. Friends of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Lafond, who had come to what is now Alberta, then North West Territories, gave them favorable news of Western Canada. There were also a few priests who encouraged this movement westward and many came out to be with these new settlers. All these factors influenced Leonard and Ernestine to sell their belongings and buy tickets for Edmonton, where they arrived in March, 1904.

They rented living quarters in Edmonton. Leonard came out to the Lafond area and chose a homestead, S.W. 1/4 of 2-57-11-4 of 4. He went back to Edmonton to file for it, and returned to make his improvements and build a house. All was ready in 1906 and they moved, buying furniture and supplies in Edmonton, and sailing down the Saskatchewan River on a raft. Mr. F. X. Brault brought them to their homestead in a buggy, others brought the furniture and supplies. They bought a horse and a couple of cows to begin their life on the homestead. Leonard had money to pay to have his land broken, a few acres each year, until he had 100 acres under cultivation. Revenue was at a minimum during this time, so he decided to put his knowledge of butchering to good use. He would buy finished steers, from nearby ranchers, butcher them, cut up the meat and sell it in St. Paul, St. Edward and stop at the farm homes also. He would be away on a 3-day meat run every week. This



Home of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Lafond built in 1906. On photo, taken in 1915, from L-R: Mrs. Lafond, Mr. Briere, Eva Benoit, Mr. Lafond.



Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Lafond's sheep, on their farm, 2½ miles west of Lafond, approximately in 1915.

brought in enough money to pay living expenses while the crops were growing. This was handy for the people around, for, in this way they could get fresh meat. There was no power and no deep-freezers then.

Later Leonard bought more horses to do his own farming. He also raised fine horses and sold some. Approximately in 1909-10, he bought some sheep and raised as many as 300 at the peak of this venture. The coyote population killed so many, that it was no longer profitable to keep them, so he sold his sheep.

In 1909, Eva Benoit, a niece, 14 years old, who had been orphaned at the age of 5 and had been cared for by her older sisters, decided to come to live with her aunt and uncle. She had known them well in the east, and so they became her foster parents. She lived with them until she married Adolphe Briere and then, for a few years, lived only a mile away. The young couple then moved to Edmonton where she died in 1929.

In 1918, a young nephew of Ernestine's, Evariste Gouin, then 16 years old, came out west from St. Felix of Kinsey, P.Q. He lived with them as a

foster son, helping to break more land and then to cultivate it. In 1919, Evariste bought a half-section, across the road, south of his uncle's home and farmed it and his uncle's land. He helped his uncle to care for the cattle and the dozen or more work horses needed for the farming.

Mrs. Lafond will be long remembered as the first organist in the parish of Lafond. This service she rendered to the community for some 15 to 20 years.

Mr. Lafond passed away, in his home, in 1940. Mrs. Lafond then moved in with her nephew, Evariste Gouin, who had by then, a beautiful big house, built by Mr. Michel Laframboise, situated just across the road from her home. She lived there until her death in 1955.

REMUS LAFOND

by Laurette (Lozeau) Michaud

Remus Lafond, son of Mr. and Mrs. Romulus Lafond, was born Feb. 14, 1923 at Lafond. He was raised in Lafond and attended Cartier School. Remus was a happy and jovial character.

As a young man he worked in the lumber camps, one to mention was Camille Boutin's, north of St. Lina.

As time went by, he was interested in a girl, Germaine, working as clerk in the store in St. Lina. This store was a stopping place for the crew to stock up on supplies when going to the camp. It was owned and operated by Jos. Lozeau. Remus and Germaine were married in St. Lina at St. Helene R.C. Church on May 23, 1949. They made their home at Lafond on the parent's farm and started a family.

Two boys were born: Roland was born April 16, 1951, and Hervé Feb. 20, 1953.



Seated Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Lafond. Standing Eva Benoit in 1915.



Remus and Germaine Lafond, May 23, 1949.



The Remus Lafond children. Front row: Carmen and Adele. Back row: Herve and Ronald.

Remus later bought land one mile north of St. Lina where the family lived for a couple of years or so.

Remus went to work in Penny, B.C. and came back for the family later. The next move was to Drayton Valley, Alberta. Two girls were born there. Adele born Sept. 20, 1958, then Carmen Aug. 10, 1961.

After a short illness, their mother, Germaine, passed away, six weeks after the birth of baby Carmen.

Remus kept the boys, while Adele went to live with her uncle Aime and aunt Laurette Michaud. Carmen was taken in by Henry and Juliette Michaud of Westlock, Alta. and was later adopted by them.

A little over a year later, Remus and the boys were driving to St. Lina, and were involved in a car accident which claimed the life of Remus, while the two boys were hospitalized in an Edmonton hospital for 2 months. When they were released from the hospital, they joined their sister Adele at their uncle Aimé and aunt Laurette's home. It completed a happy family. They finished their schooling and then went on their own. Ronald married Georgette Michaud and they live in Edmonton. Ronald works as a mechanic. Hervé is single and is in partnership in the Bonnyville Welding Shop and lives in Bon-

nyville. Adele married Felix Smyl in Oct. 1980. They live north of Mallaig and she works in St. Paul. Carmen is working and living in Vancouver, B.C.

THE ROMULUS LAFOND HISTORY

by Rita (Lafond) Bezaire

My Father, Romulus Lafond was born at La Baie du Febvre, Quebec, on July 3, 1877; the fifth child of a family of six boys and one girl. He took his early schooling at the local school and was later sent to college at Trois Rivières. At nineteen he left home and worked for La Presse in Auburn, Maine — which at that time, had a strong French Canadian population. Tired of city life, Romulus worked in lumber camps in Minnesota then on to Davidson, Radisson and Marcelin, Saskatchewan where he worked on farms. He always chose to work for English-speaking people in order to have a better chance at learning the English language. This came in handy when he later married a Scottish girl.

In 1910 he homesteaded the N.W. 20-50-10-W4. The farming months were spent on the homestead and the first four winters he worked for Mr. Brosseau Sr. at the store in Brosseau. The adjoining quarter S.W. 20, was homesteaded by his youngest brother Urbain and wife Josephine Boisvert Lafond who had arrived before my father. The oldest of the family, Leonard and his wife Ernestine Gouin Lafond homesteaded west of the hamlet of Lafond.

In 1921, Romulus married the former Jean Donnelly who had come from Scotland to Edmonton in 1919. Jean was born December 20, 1884 at Gourloch, Scotland; the oldest of a family of six girls and one boy. My grandmother Donnelly had been widowed when her youngest child was a baby. Mother worked at various jobs to help raise the family. During the 1914-18 war she was an inspector in an ammunition factory. After the war, work was hard to come by. She left Scotland to join friends who had moved to Edmonton.

My Father and Mother were married on April



Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Lafond.



Seated Jean and Romulus Lafond, Remus and standing Germaine (Lozeau) Lafond; Rita (Lafond) Bezaire; Roger Bezaire; Taken in 1952.

23, 1921; the first Lafonds to be married in St. Bernard Church at Lafond. They had two children — Remus, born in 1923 and (myself) Rita, born in 1924.

In 1949, Remus married the former Germaine Lozeau, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Lozeau of St. Lina. He took over the homestead for a few years, farmed for a while at St. Lina, and later, while living at Drayton Valley, worked in oil fields and also as a partsman.

In October, 1961, Germaine passed away and Remus died in a car accident the following October. They had four children. Ronald who married the former Georgette Michaud of Mallaig is a mechanic in Edmonton. Harvey is co-owner of a welding shop in Bonnyville. Adele is residing in St. Paul and Carmen in Vancouver.

I married Roger Bezaire of Torquay, Saskatchewan in 1948. We spent two years in Ontario and then returned to the farm at Torquay where we have resided since, operating a mixed farm. We have seven children — six girls and one boy: Jeanette Eddolls teaches at Prince Albert, Dianne Man-



L-R: Laurent Farley, Annette Lafond, Helena Farley, Borome Lafond Jr., Emerencienne Lafond, Borome Lafond Sr.



Emerencienne Lafond (R.N.)
First R.N. in Lafond.

tei is presently with CEDA in Tanzania, Africa, Neal is an industrial mechanic and welder and also farms, Maureen is with Edmonton City Transit, Lillian Purdy is a court reporter in Saskatoon, Yvonne and Frances are students residing at home. We have two grandchildren, Douglas and Rachelle Mantei.

My Father passed away in May, 1961, at the age of 83, and Mother in September of 1974 at the age of 89.

EUGENE LAFORTUNE

by Joe Lafortune

Eugene Lafortune was born of Demose and Georgia Lafortune on August 25th. 1882 in Joliette, Quebec. He lost his parents at the tender age of 14 years. He worked at whatever he could get to earn his keep. He finally worked on the railroad, making his way westward. He arrived in St. Paul Des Metis on March 9, 1907 on a cold day — temperature 54°F. Father Therien met the newcomers in St. Paul. Eugene took a homestead in 1909. He worked on it mostly in the summer clearing land. He started a livery stable in or about 1910. He married Yvonne Belland in 1921. Together they raised a family of seven children.

The house was built of logs. The distance to the train station was 5½ miles, a trip to town was made about once a month. The children attended Cartier School which was the closest to home. Most of the clothes were home-made: homesewn or knitted. As a family they always made home-made toffee for friends on November 25th. which is St. Catherine's Day.

The early years brought with them a lot of hail, which destroyed the crops and made times very hard. To pass away the evenings, the family would go to play cards at their neighbor's home.

The eldest of the family was a girl, Marie-Flore, who now lives in Edmonton followed by Joseph and Origene who live in St. Paul. Roland and Roger live in Vancouver. One daughter, Yvette passed away at the age of 23 in 1954. The youngest daughter, Lorraine, lives in Hinton, Alberta.



The Eugene Lafortune Family beside Family home. Back row: Eugene, his wife Yvonne, Marie-Flore, Joseph. Front row: Yvette, Lorraine, Roland, Origene, Roger. Taken in app. 1942 or 1943.

They had a very poor, but happy life on the farm. The first married years, were spent on the farm in summer and in town in winter, running the stable. The children went to elementary and Junior High after which most of them dropped out to earn their own living. They grew their own vegetables and picked berries, as there was no money to buy other fruit.

Eugene died on July 4, 1971 and Yvonne died on February 8, 1979.

LOUIS-PAUL LAFRAMBOISE

by Louis-Paul Laframboise

Louis Paul Laframboise, only child of Michel Laframboise and Marie-Ange Cardinal, was born in St. Paul on December 18, 1908.

When Louis-Paul was only seven years old, he was the victim of an accident that could easily have been fatal. His father, Michel was moving a shack for Emile Malo. While the men were hitching on to the building, Louis-Paul went into it and hid. When the building moved, he fell and as there was no floor, he fell to the ground, got rolled around and over. He came out of there, badly bruised, but with no broken bones. Three weeks of bed rest and tender, loving care from his mother, healed the little fellow's scrapes and bruises.

Louis-Paul remembers that in 1912, a large shipment of cattle was assembled in Lafond, where the church is now located. Michel and Emilien Daniels drove them across country to Brosseau. There they had to cross the North Saskatchewan River. Some cattle crossed on the ferry and some swam across. They followed the trails to Vegreville where they were loaded on the train for their destination —

Swift and Burns in Edmonton. This was the largest herd collected in Lafond and the last.

Louis-Paul went to school, first in Cartier, in 1916 where Miss Houle, then Simon Muri, were the teachers. He then attended Lafond School from 1918 until 1924. Two of his favorite teachers were Miss Chalifoux and Miss Eva Burk who later became Mrs. Provost.

After Louis-Paul left school, he helped his father on the farm using horses for the field work. They raised cattle, horses, pigs and chickens until 1947, when his father passed away on August 1, 1947. The next year, Louis-Paul disposed of all this stock and went to work in the logging camps at Slave Lake. It was there that he had the misfortune of getting quite badly hurt, on Dec. 31, 1948. A caterpillar was skidding the logs. Usually when it hit a tree, it would break at the root. This particular time it broke further up and the falling snag hit Louis-Paul. He spent 28 days in the Misericordia Hospital in Edmonton. When he was allowed to go home, he lived with Evariste Gouin for 2 months until he was fully recuperated. When well again, he resumed his farming until 1965, when he sold the land to Eugene Foisy.

In 1968, he retired to a little house on Bob Tomlinson's N.W. 1/4 2-57-11-W4th. In the past two



Louis-Laframboise First Communion about 1918.



2 Doyon girls, Michel Laframboise, smoking his pipe and his son Louis-Paul, taken in app. 1940 in front of Laframboise residence N.E. 2-57-11.

years 1978-79, he had to be hospitalized several times, but now in 1980, he is well again. Hopefully he will be around for a long time. He has a wonderful memory and can recall names, dates, land descriptions and all kinds of events that have happened in the last 60 years. He is a living history book. Hopefully some of this will be recorded to live on for future generations.

MICHEL AND MARIE ANGE LAFRAMBOISE

by Louis-Paul Laframboise

Michel Laframboise was born in Nêche, North Dakota, U.S.A. a little settlement south of Winnipeg, two miles across the American border. In 1895, when he was 19 years old, he left home and came to what is now Alberta, to visit his brother, Louis. He liked the country, so in 1896, he took a homestead, one mile east of Nisku. He proved his homestead and in all, lived there for seven years. In 1902, he and his brother sold their land and moved their herd of some forty head of cattle and about fifteen horses to a farm west of St. Paul. They also opened a general store, where they did a fine business, buying many furs. Michel had taken a homestead, three miles west and about a quarter mile south of St. Paul, caring for the livestock. Louis lived in town, some two hundred feet south of where the Legion Hall now stands. They operated the store until 1913.

Shortly after his arrival in St. Paul, Michel met Marie Ange Cardinal. She had been brought up by the Grey Nuns in St. Albert convent and educated to be a teacher. She taught there until 1900, when she came to the Sacred Heart Mission, in the Saddle Lake Reserve, where the Grey Nuns operated a residential school. In 1902 she married Michel Laf-

ramboise in St. Albert. They moved to the farm, west of St. Paul. When the Assumption Sisters came to St. Paul, she taught with them for two years, 1904 and 1905.

On December 18, 1908, a son, Louis-Paul, was born to Michel and Marie Ange. The little family lived on the farm, raising more and more cattle. When Louis and Michel disposed of their store, Michel also sold his farm, as it was getting too small for his large herd. He looked around for a larger piece of land but not finding any, he sold some of his cattle and bought the N.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ 4-57-10-W of 4th, from a Mr. Marcotte, then in 1917 resold it to Richmond Malo. He then rented three different farms between Lafond and Elk Point. In 1926, he rented the Courtemanche farm, later Gongus, then Link. The family lived there for a year. In 1927 he bought the N.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ 2-57-10 from a lawyer, Mr. Buckley, and lived there for two years. This he sold to Philippe Blanchette and later Alphonse Malo bought it.

In 1933, Michel made his last purchase of land — the N.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ 2-57-11 land on which he lived until his death and then his son, Louis-Paul took it over.

Mrs. Laframboise was a very competent midwife and assisted at the birth of many of the children in this area. She is fondly remembered, not only for her services as a midwife but also for her valuable help in many cases of illness and/or accident, as she had taken a First Aid Course when she lived in St. Albert.

Mrs. Laframboise was also blessed with a beautiful singing voice. She sang in the choir at Lafond Church and also often came to attend mass during the week and to sing for the high masses, which demanded quite a bit of singing. After a long illness and much suffering, she passed away on March 18, 1937, a victim of cancer.



Michel Laframboise, Father Paul Mailloux, Emile Malo, taken in 1937 or 38, west of Lafond rectory, where an addition was being built. Notice the tools.

Mr. Laframboise was a fine carpenter and built many log shacks for his cattle. Later he built frame houses throughout the country many of them still standing and being used, amongst them that of Evariste Gouin, Alphonse Malo, Ovila Jean, Edward Robinson, Daniel Foisy, Hector Dupuis, also barns for Albert Paradis, Mr. Drolet of St. Paul, David Charron, Emile Malo and many more.

As there were no undertakers in this area in the early days Mr. Laframboise was often asked to build coffins and how many he made is not known as Louis-Paul said he had long ago lost count, but he knows that there were many. Mr. Laframboise would build the wooden box, then his wife would cover it with black crepe and line the inside very artistically with white satin. A wooden cross was placed on the cover, making a very respectable resting place for the deceased person.

When in his sixties, Mr. Laframboise had to slow down in his building activities but was always available for advice when the young men got into difficulties. He died of a heart attack on August 1, 1947.

MR. CYRICE AND CLARINA LAFRANCE

by Omer Lafrance

In April 1921, my parents Cyrice and Clarina Lafrance, (nee Lagasse), and their children left their relatives and friends in St. Mathieu, Quebec, to come and settle in the West. They made their home in St. Edouard Alberta, seven miles East of St. Paul. They lived there till 1926, then bought a section of land from the Saddle Lake Indian Reserve for a price of \$1200.00 to \$1500.00 per quarter section. This was a lot of money in those days. There were no buildings, no water well and no fences. There was only prairie with willows and bluffs of poplar.

They purchased the old Doucet School building and turned it into living quarters. The barn that was built in 1928 is still standing and in good condition. The pig barn was built in 1930 (the dirty thirties).



Cyrice and Clarine
Lafrance (nee Lagasse) in
1953.



Mr. and Mrs. Cyrice Lafrance's children in 1965. L-R, Back row: Philippe, Noel, Omer, Joseph, Charles, Marcel. Front row: Emma, Agnes, Cecile, Jeanne D'Arc.

Since their homestead was located at what was called the Lafrance corner, the seven mile corner, or the crossroads (seven miles to St. Paul, seven miles to Lafond, three and a half miles to St. Brides church, and four miles to the Cork Church) there was no excuse to miss Sunday Mass.

Many things could be said about that corner. It was the stopping place for the early freighters with teams of horses pulling heavy loads, whether wagons, or sleighs. Some people from Lafond would go up North to Good Fish Lake, located North West of Ashmont, logging for lumber. On their return journeys, if their horses were tired, the lumber men would stop over night to give their horses a rest and were sure to get a free meal.

The roads were poor in those days. In places there were only wagon trails across the land. Trucks and cars were scarce then, they were considered a novelty. It seems there was always someone in need, a car out of gas or stuck in a mud hole. The Lafrance's were always ready to lend a helping hand, and mom would always give them a free meal.

I remember Edward Robinson, Joe Henley, Labrecque, and Mr. Soulou, the French man from France, would go fishing to Wolfe Lake and Mosquito Lake. Sure nice fish in those days. They would come back with a wagon box full of fish. In spring Mr. Soulou would go around repairing harnesses and shoes. He was a tradesman at it.

I vividly remember July 18, 1936, when a terrible hail storm chopped up our crops to shreds, broke windows, peeled the bark off poplar trees, still visible forty years later. Many trees had died.

They had a family of ten children;

Noel married Clemence Lefebvre

Charles married Irene Gagne

Philippe married Adrienne Desaulniers

Omer married Gertrude Bergeron
Cecile married Clovis Therrien
Agnes is a Sister of Assomption
Jeanne is a Sister of the Precious Blood
Marcel married Katherine Leroux
Emma married Albert Lefebvre
Joseph married Inga Sherbaniuch

JOSEPH (1892-1980) AND MARIE (1895-1976) LAFRANCE

by Albert Lafrance

THE ARRIVAL

It was a crisp winter's day back in December 1925, sometimes between Christmas and the New Year. The sun had begun to set behind the leafless treetops when Joseph Lafrance, his wife Marie, and their four children began to settle into their new home in Lafond, Alberta. They had been travelling all day over icy roads and snowy fields, but Joseph and Marie did not feel the weariness of the day, for they had a feeling that at last their dream would come true — a dream they had nurtured together for the past few years, ever since they had left their native Québec.

THE ORIGIN

Joseph Epiphane Lafrance was born in Saint Epiphane, Québec, on July 17, 1892. He was the eighth in a family of nine children born to Henri Lafrance (1857-1941) and Joséphine Dionne (1856-1926). He, his three brothers and five sisters were the tenth generation in a long line of descendants of a certain Nicolas Pinel of La Rochelle, France, who had set foot in Canada sometime before 1657. (The name "dit Lafrance" was added to the name Pinel in the 18th century and adopted as the family name in the 19th century).

Grandfather Henri was a farmer in the lower lands of Québec south of the St. Lawrence, between Rivière-du-Loup and Rimouski. But farms were small in this region and farmland rather poor. Times were hard at the turn of the century and in order to make ends meet Grandfather would travel south to the United States, sometimes with his whole family, and everyone that could, would work there. When enough money had been earned they would return to their farm in Québec.

By 1914, Jos Lafrance (as he was known) had purchased a small farm in Saint Honoré, not far from his native town. He married Marianna Beau-lieu in April of that year. However, grief struck early in his life; less than two years later his wife died leaving him with an infant daughter who also passed away at the age of four, in 1918.

In 1916, Father was fortunate to meet Marie Lafrance, the beautiful twenty-one year old daughter of Louis Lafrance (1869-1929) and Claudia Turcotte (d.1914).



Mr. Joseph Lafrance in his early twenties.

She was born in L'Isle-Verte, Québec and had spent much of her youth working in various factories in the United States to help support the family. She was the second oldest in a family of nine children. Joseph and Marie were married in Saint Cyprien, Québec on July 3, 1917.

They made their home in Saint Honoré and their first daughter, Gertrude was born there on November 30, 1918. This kind of life however, working on a small farm and then out to lumber camps or to the United States to make ends meet, was not Father's idea of successful farming. The visions of vast and rich farmlands in the West haunted him, and when he saw people around him begin to leave their land and head for the West, his visions became a dream. He shared that dream with his wife, Marie. Moreover, her health was not the best and they thought a drier climate might be good for her. In the spring of 1921, they had reached a decision. He leased his farm in Saint Honoré, packed some belongings and started off for Montreal where he met with his brother, Cyrice Lafrance. Together with their wives and children they boarded the Canadian National train for Alberta.

The new comers arrived in St. Paul by train in the middle of March 1921. They were greeted at the station by their uncle, Emile Lafrance who had moved from the East the previous year. They rode back to uncle Emile's farm in a horse-drawn sleigh and stayed there for several weeks. By the beginning of April Father had rented a quarter-section of land from Mr. Georges Pommerleau some three-and-a-half miles southwest of St. Edouard, and moved there soon after. The Pommerleau farm was modest but afforded them with a good start at mixed-farming. There was a small house with some furniture, a stable, four horses, several cows, some pigs and a few farm implements. They lived there for three years, adding two new members to their family: Yvette, born July 1, 1922 and Léo Paul, on September 14, 1923. They were poor but they worked hard, harvesting three annual crops, tending to the animals and starting a modest stock of their own.

In the spring of 1924, Jos Lafrance purchased his first piece of farmland in the West. By that time



The beautiful Marie Lafrance in her late teens. This picture was taken around 1914, in the United States where she worked a number of years in her youth.

he and his wife had decided to stay in Alberta and he had arranged to sell his farm in Québec. Through a Real Estate agent in Smoky Lake, he bought Mr. Brunnette's quarter-section (N.W. 31 TP 58 R 8) some seven-and-a-half miles northeast of St. Edouard. He moved there that year. There was less there in terms of facilities and machinery, but it was their own. They harvested two crops on that property and saw the birth of a fourth child, Ida, born October 7, 1925.

It was that year (1925), that Father heard from his uncle Emile that the latter's brother-in-law David Charron, had a farm for sale in Lafond. Dad acted swiftly. By the end of that year he had sold his farm in St. Edouard, closed a deal on a half-section of land near Lafond, and moved his family to a new and better farm. On New Year's Day 1926, Jos Lafrance could stand proudly in his new home and tracing the sign of the Cross with his right hand, solemnly bless his wife and children like he did every New Year's morning in keeping with the tradition of his venerable forefathers. A new life was about to begin, a dream was about to come true.

THE EARLY YEARS (1926-1929)

The land that Jos Lafrance could now call his own was a step forward from what they had before. Not only did he now own two quarter-sections S.E. 1/4 16 TP57 R10 and S.W. 1/4 15 TP57 R10), but also a sturdy house, a good stable, a shop where he installed his forge and blacksmith equipment, a granary and a small shed. In the spring of that first year, he held an auction sale of things he could dispense with, in order to have enough cash for a payment on the farm. The crop he put in that year was not as big as he would have liked, for there was still much clearing and breaking of land to be done. But the harvest was good and this allowed for some progress.

It soon became apparent that if he was to succeed in farming, Father would have to do two things, first clear and break more land so as to make

use of the rich soil, and second, expand his livestock in the form of cattle, hogs and poultry, for market as well as for his own sustenance. This of course, would entail getting the necessary equipment to do the job and expanding the actual facilities of the farm.

The task at hand therefore, laid clear before him, and there was no time to lose. These first years would be years of expansion. In 1927, he bought a share in a tractor, a Ford Major 26, in partnership with Joe Côté and Omer Côté, his neighbours. In the spring of the following year, he sold his share of that tractor to Omer Côté and bought his own. His first tractor was a McCormick 1530 on steel wheels. He cultivated and sowed his land with it that year, but he was also anxious to clear and break more land. Newly arrived *immigrés* who were looking for work were soon hired to clear the land and Father broke the rest of his land with his new tractor.

Cooperation among farmers was common and often necessary in those days. In that respect Jos Lafrance was often a leader. In 1927, for example, the year he bought his tractor, his brother Cyrice (who by that time had also left St. Edouard and bought a farm some ten miles north of Lafond) purchased a threshing machine. In the Fall of that year and for many years to come, they harvested each others crops and that of many of their neighbours. Father also owned a grain-mill which he operated with his tractor, and often he would make "chop" for surrounding farmers, charging so much per foot of grain in a wagonload. It was also in these years that he started to break land for farmers in Lafond and district, practice he would continue throughout his farming years. One of the first persons for whom he broke land was Mr. Eugène Lamoureux, in 1928.

During these initial years, he also acquired his first car, a 1921 Model-T Ford. It soon proved to be less practical than a truck, so in 1929 he changed it for a 1928 Chevrolet truck, which he bought secondhand and for which he built a small wooden box. This truck saw many good years of service on the farm and around the community, for Jos and his truck were often in demand to perform taxi, ambulance and transport services. It even served as a hearse once, when it carried the remains of Mr. Léo Paul Jean.

These expansion years were not limited to the farm and its implements; the family was also growing rapidly. Annette was the first to be born in Lafond on July 4, 1927. Robert followed on September 3, 1928 and then came Thérèse on December 21, 1929. With the enlarged family more space than what the cramped little house could afford was soon required. An extension on the west side of the house was built to house a kitchen, a bedroom, a living-room area, and a pantry.

THE DEPRESSION YEARS (1930-1935)

In October of 1929, the New York stock market crashed, setting off the Great Depression. The economy of the country came to a standstill, there were no jobs, and money became extremely rare. The effect of the depression was felt the world over; no one was spared, not even Jos and Marie Lafrance and countless other farmers in the remote community of Lafond. In the spring of 1930, the older children in our family remember walking to school, for there was no money to buy gasoline for the tractor, and the horse that brought them to school everyday was needed to till and sow the land. Times were hard indeed; some farmers had to give up their land. Mother used to say "At least we always had something to eat; we can be thankful for that". In fact it was much through their inventiveness and industriousness that Father and Mother were able to survive the depression.

Cooperation among farmers became a necessity more than ever. Since there was practically no currency, people exchanged time and labour instead of money. One year in the early '30's for example, Father broke some land for Mr. Jean Henley, who in return sawed logs into lumber for him. This lumber was then used to build a long annex to the barn, with the assistance of Mr. Laframboise. This annex was needed to shelter the ever increasing number of cows that Dad owned.

In fact, when the depression struck in 1930, Jos Lafrance had managed to enlarge his livestock of cattle, hogs, and poultry. But the market for hogs was discouragingly low. He is remembered driving with his truck to Two-Hills to sell his hogs for \$2.50 each, instead of St. Paul where he could only get \$2.00 per head. One of the redeeming factors that helped us recover from the depression was the large number of cows that Father and Mother, with the help of the children, milked everyday. There was a time when thirty-two cows were milked every morning and every evening, seven days a week, and by hand if you please! Needless to say that this soon produced quantities of milk and cream that exceeded by far what the market in St. Paul could bear. This is when Mother began to exercise her talents at butter-making.

Marie Lafrance made extraordinarily good butter, a skill she had developed over the years. At first she made it in small quantities by hand, enough for the family. But with the depression, she began to make more and sold it from door to door in St. Paul. It sold remarkably well. Though money was rare, people managed to pay .25¢ for two pounds of butter. As the volume of cream increased with the number of cows that were milked, so did the demand for Mother's butter. It soon became impossible to make all this butter by hand. So Father, rising to the occasion as he always did, came up with a device (une patente) for producing

butter mechanically. Using the motor of our Maytag washing machine as power, he devised a system of pulley — with shafts turning on wooden bearings — that operated the churn mechanically. The production and sale of butter in this manner extended through the remaining years of the '30's and well into the '40's.

In spite of the depression years, the sun rose every morning and life ran its course in the Lafrance household. Luc was born in Lac LaBiche on October 27, 1931 and Denise in Lafond on October 9, 1933. The number of children had grown to nine now, and with a family that size washing by hand was an ordeal which Mother could do without. Consequently, on the early '30's Mom and Dad invested in a brand-new Maytag washing machine that was operated by a small gasoline motor, that also spun the churn in making butter as we have just seen.

The circumstances of childbirth were somewhat different then, than what they are today. For one, children were born in the homes and not in hospitals. Often doctors were not available; ladies of the community acted as midwives. They were called upon when the time had come and after assisting in the child's birth, they would stay in the home with the mother for awhile. Mrs. Laframboise and Mrs. Laboucane will be remembered as dedicated midwives in Lafond in the earlier days. As for our family we were privileged to have Mrs. Fréchette, our good neighbour, who assisted in



The Lafrance family in the Fall of 1935, ten years after their arrival in Lafond. Starting from the back L-R: We have Yvette, Mr. Jos Lafrance, Mrs. Marie Lafrance with baby Henri in her arms, Gertude, Paul, Annette, Ida, Robert, Therese, Luc and Denise. Albert in mother's arms in back row.



Jos and Marie Lafrance trying out their new Maytag washing machine in the early 30's. The small gasoline motor also powered the churn in making butter. The young girl is Ida.

every childbirth that occurred in our home in Lafond.

RECOVERING FROM THE DEPRESSION (1935-1939)

In 1935 and during the last years of the decade, Canada was slowly recovering from the depression. This was felt in Lafond by some modest signs of prosperity that returned to the community. In our family these five years were marked by a renewed bust of activities and events.

In May 1935, Father and Mother returned to the East by train to pay a visit to friends and relatives they hadn't seen in fourteen years. On August 4, 1935, Henri was born. In 1937, with the help of Mr. Jérémie Faucher, Dad built a long extension to his barn which was needed to store hay. He sold his truck that year and bought a brand-new car: a 1937 Willys. Also that year, Mother gave birth to her eleventh and last child, Albert, born August 27, and Father led his oldest daughter to the altar; Gertrude married Napoléon Tremblay on November 3, 1937, in Lafond. In 1938, Mom and Dad, uncle Cyrice and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Hector Dupuis all travelled to Calgary with the Agronomist Mr. J.M. Fontaine, where Father purchased a purebred Aberdeen-Angus bull. The older children in the family remember that it was also about this time that Dad took them to the Exhibition in Edmonton, a rather rare and coveted event in those days.

Finally in the Fall of 1938, Father harvested his crop with his own McCormick-Deering threshing machine that he had bought that summer. This was a significant achievement, for not only was it a certain sign of prosperity for a farmer to own his own threshing outfit, but it meant assuming a certain leadership and responsibility, since he would be expected to harvest the crops of his surrounding neighbours. This he did very efficiently for the next eight years or so.

THE WAR YEARS (1939-1945)

On September 3, 1939, Great Britain and France declared war on Germany. At the beginning of the '40's the gloomy cloud of War was hanging over Europe, and with the fall of France in 1940, Canada found itself to be, after England, the second most powerful adversary of Nazi Germany. Though the role of Canada remained supply, rather than combat forces, a number of young men from Lafond volunteered or were called upon to serve their country in the armed Forces. Families such as the Lamoureux, Pigeon, Couillard and others, saw their sons leave home to become soldiers. The war effort however, had one redeeming factor for everyone; it speeded up the economy of the country, a measure that was so desperately needed after the hard years of the depression. Consequently, in spite of certain restrictions such as food rationing inflicted by the War, farmers in Lafond in general knew a period of relative prosperity during the early forties.

As for Jos and Marie Lafrance, they soon came to realize during those years, that they had reached the midway of their lives together. They had finished bringing their children into the world, they saw the older ones leave home to get started on their own, and they began to greet with joy the arrival of their first grandchildren. In fact, on October 6, 1938 Gertrude gave birth to Raymond, Mom and Dad's first grandchild, and on November 14, 1939 Yvette was married to Antoine Tremblay. In July 1942, Father and Mother celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary, while on August 15 of that year, Ida entered the Congregation of Les Soeurs de l'Assomption de Nicolet. Also that year, Father Maurice Lafrance, O.M.I., uncle Emile's son, was ordained to the priesthood. All these events called for festive gatherings of friends and relatives at the family home in Lafond.

Unfortunately, not all the events of those years called for rejoicing. In January 1941, Grandfather Henri passed away in Québec at the age of eighty-four. At the end of August that year, a hail storm swept away completely (100%) what promised to be a record crop. On July 14, 1943, after giving birth to her second daughter, Yvette was overcome by an illness that eventually led to her becoming an in-

valid. Mother took the newborn daughter Angèle into her care. She grew up in our midst and ever since has been part of our family. Gertrude took Yvette's older daughter Solange into her home.

Farmwise, the early forties was a period of renewed development on the Lafrance farm. By 1940, Father had acquired a new quarter-section of land (N.W. ¼ 9 TP57 R10) and a ninety-acre homestead (S.E. ¼ 14 TP57 R10). That year he also bought a new International Diesel Caterpillar TD-6. This new tractor and the added land (he purchased another quarter in 1944 — S.E. ¼ 15 TP57 R10) were soon to spur the inventive imagination and mechanical practicality of Jos Lafrance.

It stood to reason that now that he had the power of his Cat, he would save time, fuel and energy if he could pull larger and more efficient implements. But unfortunately these larger implements did not yet exist, or if they did, they were not available around Lafond. So Dad went ahead and built his own. Using his skills as a blacksmith — a trade he had learned from one of his uncles back in Québec — he designed and built for example, a seven moldboard plow by assembling two plows together. He also put together twelve sections of spike-tooth harrows, three drills and two binders, all of which he pulled quite easily with his Cat. Thus he tilled and sowed his land and reaped his crop more efficiently. Needless to say that hooking all of these together so that everything would turn and operate properly required skill and imagination.

A part from cultivating and harvesting, the Caterpillar saw many other uses around the farm and the community, many of which entailed Father's creative innovations. Some readers might recall the V-shaped snowplow he built in the early forties. After heavy snowfalls he would push this remarkable device with his Cat, opening roads for his neighbours and himself. In the winter of 1944, the Cat was used for skidding logs at Mr. Boutin's saw-mill north of Rich Lake, with special heavy-duty sleighs that Dad had built. In 1948 he designed and built a "brush-cutter" which he used to clear his homestead. The Cat of course, was then used to break the land which is the site of today's Crestview Developments. But Father will best be remembered for the many acres of land he broke for farmers in the Lafond area during the '40's and '50's.

It was also during these war years that Mother bought her first Singer sewing machine and followed a course in sewing that was given in the Lafond Parish Hall, in the basement of the church. In previous years all the sewing and mending was done by hand, and the girls were taught to sew, knit and embroider. In the late twenties knitting was done with pure wool that was homemade; raw wool was bought from Mr. Bazil Jean, and then washed, carded, and spun into yarn, all by hand — a very long and tedious process. Later, yarn was

ordered from the catalog, but mittens, stockings, scarfs, etc., were for a long time all knitted at home. During long winter days, Mother tried her hand at weaving with a hand loom she had bought. She soon turned out various interestingly designed fabrics which she converted into towels, mats, and various other things. Her ambition and skills induced her into braiding rugs and sewing quilts and blankets out of remnants, a practice she kept up as a hobby after retiring.

THE POSTWAR YEARS (1945-1950)

In the spring of 1945, the War ended in Europe and the soldiers from Lafond came back home. Jubilation was in the air and welcome-home parties were given. Like the sunshine returning after the storm, the next few years were to prepare the country for an economic growth like it had never known — the boom of the '50's and '60's. For the farmer, this would result in better and larger farm implements, better prices for grain, livestock, and farm products, and also more advanced agricultural technology.

It was at this time that the combine replaced the standard threshing machine, and Jos Lafrance was not known to drag his feet when it came to improved farm machinery. In fact he has been recognized as the first, in the district of St. Paul, to have purchased a self-propelled Massey-Harris combine in 1945. He also needed a more versatile and faster tractor than his Cat could afford, so in the spring of 1946, he bought a McCormick WD-9 at Johnny Brosseau's auction sale. That Fall, the days when he would get up in the middle of the night in winter to keep the fire going in the wood furnace down stairs, came to an end. Propane gas was purchased and installed to heat and light the family home.

In the summer of 1947, farmers in the mid-western States were advertising for help to harvest what promised to be an unusually good crop. Farmers from western Canada who owned combines were invited to lend a helping hand. Father decided to accept this challenge. He bought a three-ton truck on which he loaded his combine, pulling the header behind on a "bennet", and left for the States on June 22, 1947. His oldest son, Paul and his son-in-law Antoine Tremblay went with him. Driving as far south as Kansas, they "combined" their way up through Colorado, the Dakotas and Montana.

Meanwhile back in Lafond, the usual tasks of picking stones, making hay, and other daily chores were accomplished by the older children with Mother's help and guidance. In mid-August Mother purchased a second combine, for fear that Dad would not be back in time for harvest.

The combining trip to the States was a complete success, lasting all of July and August, but it was



Typical festive gathering of friends and relatives at the Lafrance household. Taken in August 1942 when Ida Lafrance and Claire Desaulniers, also of Lafond, joined the Sisters of the Assomption.

marred by the untimely death of Antoine. When they had reached Wolf Point, Montana, he took ill, was taken to hospital and passed away on August 19, 1947. His remains were sent home by train and found their resting place in the cemetery near the church in Lafond, on August 25, 1947. He was thirty years old.

In the spring of 1948, there was cause for celebration in the Lafrance household; the two older sons were getting married. On May 10, in a double wedding arrangement, Robert took Marie Fontaine as his wife, in Lafond, and later that same morning, Paul espoused Madeleine Dumaine in Lacorey. In those days Paul was operating the garage in Lafond, while Robert was working on the farm with Dad.

THE SEMIRETIREMENT YEARS (1948-1960)

Robert's interest in farming incited Father and Mother to begin living in semiretirement. In the Fall of 1948, after harvesting was done, they moved to St. Paul. Luke, Denise, Albert and Angèle followed and all went to school there, while Henri preferred staying on the farm with Robert. Though they had moved, all the land was still their's except for a quarter-section which was Robert's and Dad continued to farm his land every year until 1960. Furthermore, during these semiretired years, they erected a new house, helped the rest of the children get started in life, and took pride in seeing their grandchildren multiply.

In the spring of 1949, Dad began constructing his new home in St. Paul with the help of Mr. Jérémie Faucher. It was just about finished when Thérèse married Xavier Lavoie on October 26, of that year. The marriage was blessed in St. Paul, but the wedding was celebrated in St. Albert, Xavier's home town. Late in November, the house was completed and soon occupied.

In the summer of 1950, Father and Mother were invited to join Luke and Father Léo Thibault, Pastor of St. Edouard and a good friend of the family, who had decided to travel by car to Québec and New England. They accepted the invitation and visited

relatives and friends they had not seen in fifteen years. This was their second trip since 1921. In the summer of 1954, they decided to motor down East themselves with their new 1954 Chevrolet. Annette, Denise, uncle Emile and his wife were also of the travelling party. Dad drove eleven thousand miles by himself that summer. Relatives and friends in Québec and the Eastern States enjoyed their visit a few more times over the years, but Mother and Father also visited Western Canada and the Pacific Coast during those years.

Wedding bells were resounding in our family in 1955, for three others got married. Luke and Agnes Kieller exchanged vows in Edmonton, on July 2, while on August 15, Denise and Eugène Joly performed their marriage at the Cathedral in St. Paul. On October 17, Annette and Henri-Paul Blanchette, of Girouxville, stood before the altar in St. Paul's Cathedral, but wedding celebrations were also held in Girouxville later on. The last to be married in that decade was Henri, who took Marie Chiasson as his wife on November 21, 1957, in St. Paul.

THE LAST YEARS (1960-1980)

Jos and Marie Lafrance were still members of the Lafond community in virtue of the land they owned there, but it was inevitable that by taking residency in St. Paul, their lives would soon gravitate around that community. In 1960, Father was sixty-eight years old and Mother turned sixty-five. After thirty-nine years of successful farming in Alberta, thirty-four of which were spent in Lafond, time had come for them to take a well deserved retirement. This was effected that year when they sold their farm to their son Robert and his wife Marie. The farm is known today as the Crestview Limousin Farm.

Father and Mother were blessed with many good years of retirement together. Generally in good health, they enjoyed spending time together in their home near the Cathedral where they would often go to pray and attend Services. Dad enjoyed fishing and Mom, the quietness and fresh air of the lakeside. But most of all, they enjoyed visiting their children, taking genuine interest in their accomplishments, rejoicing in their successes, and always ready to comfort and guide them in moments of grief.

Soon after retirement, all the children had left home; Albert was pursuing his studies and Angèle was attending University. On July 6, 1966, she married Ken MacLeod, in Edmonton, while exactly one month later, Albert married Irene Henley, in Girouxville.

One of the highlights of these years of retirement took place in St. Paul on July 1, 1967, when Father and Mother, surrounded by their children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, friends, and relatives, celebrated their Golden Wedding Anni-



Mr. and Mrs. Lafrance in their home in St. Paul ready to celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary on July 1, 1967.

versary. Dressed in apparels of the 1910's, they were driven to church in horse-and-buggy, where they renewed their marriage vows and attended Mass. Celebrations that night were held in the Community Centre where many old-timers from Lafond gathered to celebrate the occasion.

However, a celebration of their Diamond Jubilee would be denied them, and this by a matter of months. Mother went to her eternal rest on October 14, 1976, a few days before her eighty-first birthday. Father survived her by three and a half years. He was living by himself in his St. Paul home, quite capable of taking care of himself and still driving his car occasionally, when he was called to join his beloved Marie on April 20, 1980. He was eighty-seven years old. And when they laid him to rest beside Mother in the church cemetery, eleven surviving children, seventy-three grandchildren, and fifty-six great-grandchildren could lay flowers on their graves and be proudly counted among the 140 descendents of these valiant and venerable pioneers from Lafond.

PORTRAITS

It would be somewhat presumptuous to believe that one could paint in a few words a just portrait of these two exceptional people we had the good

fortune of calling Mother and Father. However there are certain features in their personalities, their children will always remember them by and as a conclusion to this short history, it might be appropriate to recall a few of them briefly.

Joseph and Marie Lafrance were devout Catholics and firm believers in the Divine Providence. This Faith guided their lives and saw them through many hardships. We will remember them of course, by the family prayers we used to say together every evening, the many Rosaries Mother murmured, and the daily Masses they often attended during their retirement. But they will be remembered mainly by the way their faith was a living force in their lives. It came with no surprise in those days to see Mother cross herself and murmur a short prayer before starting a fresh batch of bread; nor to see Father make the sign of the Cross upon entering a field with his tractor. Then there was their respect for Sunday, the Day of the Lord. It was understood that no major work was done that day and that Mass was attended regularly. Even on the last Sunday in August 1941, when hail had just completely destroyed the crops, Mass was attended as usual. "The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away," they believed, and Father and Mother were not about to question his ways.

Reference was made earlier to Father and Mother's industriousness. Both were very hard-working people indeed. It was greatly their love of farming, their love for the Land, that kindled their ambition to succeed and their drive to progress. They came from Québec with a dream and they were determined to see it come true. Dad put in many long hours of hard work every day. Often in summer he would rise with the sun and retire only after it had set. He was a man of great self-discipline, but he would not expect of others what he himself did not accomplish; his keen sense of justice and fairness would not allow otherwise. Enterprising and foregoing he often assumed a role of leadership in the community without being too aware of it, because of his modesty. Mother was equally a giant of a worker. In spite of all the housework that a large family demanded of her, she always found the time and the energy to undertake milking cows, picking stones and roots, making hay, not to mention gardening, wild-berry picking, canning and endless other tasks. She was seen more than once making hay or simply working outside, the day before one of us was born.

Ultimately, we will probably remember them best by their love for their children and for one another. Open display of emotions and affection was not a common practice in our family, but love was there always, genuine, warm and authentically expressed more often through deeds rather than by words. Mention was made of how Father would not let his family get up to a cold house in the

morning, getting up to stoke the furnace during winter nights. Likewise, Mother is remembered saying: "I never had to get up for the children in the middle of the night; if someone was crying or was ill, he was always up tending to them." Dad was an exceptional father. His authoritarian personality demanded prompt obedience and induced respect, but if his children approached him with their problems, they found a compassionate and understanding father, who sometimes displayed a tenderness that was disconcerting. This however, did not deter him from expounding firmly what he believed to be right and just. He was a man of principles and he abided by them. For us he will remain a shining example of a man of indisputable integrity. Mother was the personification of kindness and generosity. She had a heart of gold it seemed, so willing was she to help, to care, to see to the well-being and happiness of her husband and her children, each and everyone. We will remember how on Sunday mornings, she would do her utmost to keep us quiet so Dad could rest. She always spoke well of him to us but she scolded him sometimes because she felt he worked too hard. Though she dished out a good measure of discipline towards her children when necessary, she always managed to make them understand that it was for their own good and not out of lack of love. In fact her disposition was such that, no matter what happened, we could always go to her for comfort, warmth and security. Mother loved to see her children and grandchildren gathered around her, particularly at Christmas and New Year's. These were always special family gatherings and for as long as she was able to, she prepared and gave the most sumptuous meals on these occasions. Giving was her way of expressing her love. It was in fact her way of life, since all of her life she gave of herself.

Many other of their qualities could be discussed and anecdotes to illustrate them recounted, but this must suffice. Joseph and Marie Lafrance led good, fruitful and fulfilling lives together as christians, as farmers, and as loving parents. May they be remembered for their contribution to the rich mosaic of so many other lives that constitute the History of Lafond.

OMER AND GERTRUDE LAFRANCE (NEE BERGERON)

by Omer Lafrance

I, Omer, son of Cyrice and Clarina Lafrance (nee Lagasse), was born in St. Mathieu, Quebec. I came to Alberta with my parents in April, 1921.

At a wedding party, I met Gertrude daughter of Napoleon and Eva Bergeron (nee Tessier), of Lafond and asked her to accompany me for dinner. She gladly accepted and this was the beginning of



Gertrude and Omer on their wedding day July 1, 1940.

our courtship. I courted her for three and a half years which was the custom in those days. On July 1, 1940 at 10:00 a.m. we were married in the St. Bernard's Church in Lafond. It was a bright sunny day.

July 5th, we moved on our homestead, two and a half miles west of the seven mile corner. It was an abandoned farm my dad helped to buy. We lived in a granary until our little one room house was ready. Four of our children were born there. I farmed with horses one year, then in October 1941, decided to buy a new but small tractor. People thought that we were foolish and would lose the farm, especially the older people. Can't blame them, after going through the dirty thirties, they were very apprehensive.

In October 1944, I bought my dad's farm for \$8000.00, for half a section of land, a lot in those



Omer and Gertrude Lafrance's first home in St. Brides Area.



Omer and Gertrude's Family. Back row: Marc, Denis, Richard, Roger, Bernard. Front row: Bibianne, Gertrude, Omer, Carmelle, Marilynne. Taken May 18, 1974.

days. In 1945, due to a shortage of help, I decided to buy a combine, one of the first in the district. Again people considered it foolish. Now all farmers have combines and find them appropriate. People do change with time.

Here we were living in my parent's house. This was the old Doucet School building my dad had bought, moved to the farm and turned into living quarters. In 1953, we built a new house with a full basement, central heating, hot and cold water system with waste disposal field costing \$2400.00. This was considered very extravagant for the times but we sure appreciated this and made good use of it with our large family of nine children; five boys and four girls, the oldest 30 and the youngest 22. They are all working and contributing to the economy of our country.

In 1967, we decided to sell the farm, moved to Kelowna, B.C., where we made our home, and are presently living.

Our children are;

Bernard married Sharron Kealey

Bibianne married Ed. Dzulia

Carmelle married Kevin Dalen

Lucille passed away in 1966

Denis married Mary Pacholek



Omer Lafrance's new house built in 1953. In the background, his old house, the old Doucet School.

Richard married Heather Muir
Roger married Eva Lorenic
Marilynne married Gerard Naggy
Marc is single.

ROBERT AND MARIE LAFRANCE

by Marie Lafrance (née Fontaine)

Robert, son of Joseph Lafrance and Marie Lafrance, was born September 3, 1928. He was a healthy little boy who was soon attending Cartier School, for a period of six years. He then attended "College St. Jean" in Edmonton, for a year.

The following year, although only 15 years of age, he stayed at home and began his apprenticeship in the hard business of farming. He continued to help his father on the farm, later was on his own and is still in the farming business.

In the spring, it was picking rocks and roots, by hand, and then preparing the soil for seeding. At first it was only fifty acres, but each year the acreage increased.

In the summer, it was soon haying time, using a hay-mower drawn by a team of horses. Then it was raked into windrows, also with a horse drawn rake then picked up with a fork, loaded onto a rack and pitched up into the hayloft of the barn. If the weather was good it didn't take too long but usually there would be the odd showers, that prolonged the haying season.

Shortly after the hay was put away, it was time to start cutting the crop with a horse drawn binder. Hired men usually did the stooking. Then came the threshing run. Robert ran his father's threshing machine to harvest the home place and the neighboring farms as well.

During the winters of 1944-45 and 1945-46, Robert stayed home to do the chores while his father and his oldest brother, Leopaul, went to the lumber camp of Mr. Joseph Boutin. They hauled out the logs to be sawn into lumber.

For five years Robert worked with his father. In the spring of 1946, he began to seriously court me, Marie Fontaine. We went out together for two years — in summer in a buggy, in winter in an open cutter. On Monday, May 10, 1948, we were married in the St. Bernard Church of Lafond, by Reverend Paul Mailloux. Dinner was served at Lacorey, supper at the Parochial Hall in St. Paul and the dance at the Legion Hall in St. Paul. On our wedding day, we travelled in Robert's father's car — quite a change from the buggy.

Our first home was a little one — 16' x 24' — built on one of his dad's quarters of land. In the fall of 1948, Mr. Joseph Lafrance moved to St. Paul and we moved into his house on the farm.

During twelve years, Robert continued to farm with his father. The first three years were very



Alex and Katie Lakusta at their 50th wedding anniversary. Top Left: Bernie Laing and wife Alexis, Manoly and wife Pauline, Richard Innes and wife Eleanor, Gail Bedyk and husband Ron, Mike and wife Mary, Roddy and wife Claire.

LAKUSTA, ALEX AND FAMILY

by Pauline Lakusta

Alex Lakusta was born in Ukraine on July 23, 1901. He immigrated to Canada with his parents in 1903, and the family settled in the Pruth district, seven miles south of Willingdon.

Alex married Katie Serediak in September, 1919. Katie was born in April, 1904 north of Mundare, Alberta.

They worked out and then rented land south

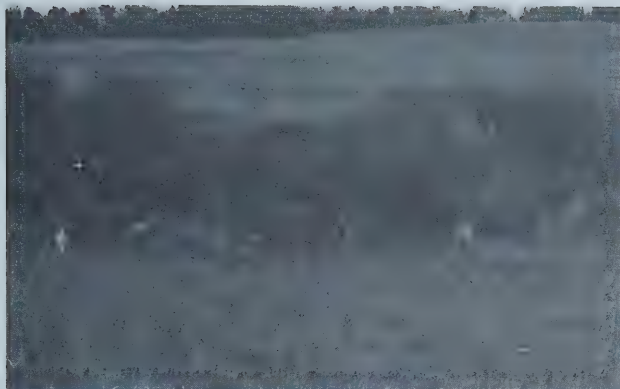
of Willingdon. Their first son, Mike, was born in the district of Soda Lake on October 19, 1921. A daughter, Mary, was born August 3, 1924, and another son, Manoly, in April 1928.

In 1928, they moved to S.E. 25-56-9-W4, where Alex farmed until he retired in 1960. In the "hungry thirties" he did some commercial fishing to help make ends meet.

Alex and Mike Skakun bought the first threshing machine in the neighborhood.



Katie and Alex Lakusta with grandchildren on their 50th wedding anniversary, 1969. Top L-R: Sharon, Eleanor, Alexis, Alex, Gail, Allan. Bottom L-R: Dale, Twila, Katie, Shelly, Donna, Eric, missing from picture Guida and grandson Cory.



Part of Robert Lafrance's Limousin herd in their fine pasture.

do a lot of canning: fruit, vegetables, jams and jellies. It also keeps me hopping, caring for the lawns, the flower gardens and also my "rock garden." The farms means a lot of work for everyone, but we all enjoy our country living.

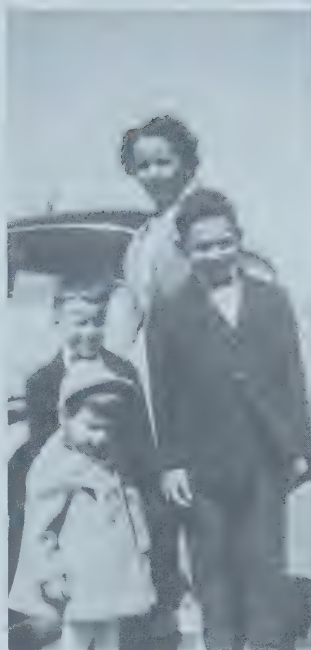
SARTO & THÉRÈSE LAFRANCE

written by Sarto and Therese Lafrance

I, Sarto Lafrance sixth child of a family of ten, son of Jacques and Elise Lafrance (nee Belanger) was born on February 2, 1929 at Rivière-du-Loup, Quebec. In 1936 I started school in the same community. We were lucky not to walk very far because school was only two blocks away from home. I went to school for ten years at St. Rosary School.



Wedding of Therese (Caron) and Sarto Lafrance, July 18, 1953 taken on steps of St. Jean Baptiste Church, Riviere du Loup, Quebec, Jacques Lafrance, father of the groom, Therese the bride, Sarto the groom, Mr. Caron, the father of the bride.



Mrs. Sarto Lafrance with her family. In front: Irene - 2 yrs. old, behind her Pierre - 5 yrs. old, beside him Daniel - 8 yrs. old with mother, Therese behind him. Taken in 1964.

Now that I was out of school, I stayed on the farm and helped my father with the farm work.

On March 25th, 1953, I left my home town by train to come to see the West, and decided to come and work in the St. Paul area. I found a job on a farm near St. Paul and worked there for three months. When I had made a few dollars, I went back to Rivière-du-Loup where I got married.

On July 18th, 1953, I married Thérèse Caron from Rivière-du-Loup. She was the 12th child of a family of nineteen children. We had our wedding ceremony at the St. Jean Baptiste Church and our reception at the Banquet Hall. My wife's sister got married the same day so that it was a double wedding reception.

The day after our wedding, we started on a long honeymoon. We took the train to come to St. Paul, Alberta. We were on the train for four nights and three days. We both enjoyed our train ride to the west.

Two days after we arrived, we both started to work at Blue Quills School. I was working as a farm helper at the school and my wife was working in the kitchen. We also had living quarters there. We continued working for two years until we could afford to go on our own.

Then in the spring of 1955, we bought a farm nine miles south of St. Paul, from Mr. Herbert Wilkenson. We had a two bedroom house and a kitchen. We managed without the conveniences of power and water. Farming was hard but we managed with what we had.

As means of transportation, we had a team of horses and a buggy. An automobile was useless to have because the roads were terribly rough and narrow. A few years later, we bought a second



Sarto Lafrance with his daughter Irene in his arms, Pierre and his brother Daniel beside him. 1964.

hand $\frac{1}{2}$ ton Fargo truck, and we had to drive carefully in such roads.

Then a year later, on November 18th, 1956 Daniel our first son was born. He attended Lafond school till 1965. He received his grade 9 education at Racette School and his grade ten at St. Paul Regional High School. He is at present time working for a saw mill in Prince George, B.C.

In 1959, on June 9, a second son, Pierre, was born. He also went to Lafond School till grade 8, grade 9 at Racette and grade 10 at St. Paul Regional High School. He started work at the St. Paul Co-op Bakery and worked there for one year and a half. Then he took the course of baker at NAIT through the St. Paul Co-op Bakery. About a week after he had finished his baker's course, on May 4, 1978, he had a fatal accident near St. Paul. He passed away at the age of 18 years.

Then on January 26, 1962 our third child, a baby girl, Irene, was born. She started school in Lafond



The Sarto Lafrance homes, the new one to the far right, the first little one to the left. Irene Lafrance and her dog in the foreground — 1973

for her grade one. She went to Lafond School till her grade 8, grade 9 at Racette School, St. Paul Regional High School for grades 10 and 11 and at the present time is taking her grade 12. She will be graduating on May 8, 1981. We wish her the best of luck in her future career.

We stayed on the farm, south of St. Paul for eight years, then in the fall of 1963, we moved to another farm one mile west and half a mile north of Lafond, $\frac{1}{4}$ Section N.W. 6-57-10-W4, the former Gabriel Giroux farm. As a house, it was small but we made it a very cosy and comfortable place to stay. We lived for ten years in this little house and enjoyed every moment we spent in it. On November 10, 1973 we moved in our newer home. This house was built in Foisy area in 1941, which was owned by Albert Paradis. It was moved to St. Paul in 1945. Then this house was moved back to Lafond area. We remodelled this house to enjoy the same conveniences as a brand new home.

We are still living on the farm, but we have been renting our land for the past few years. At the present time, I am working at the cheese factory in St. Paul. My wife, Thérèse, has been working at the St. Theresa Hospital for eighteen years.

We have been married for 28 years and always lived on a farm. We had some good years and some that were unpleasant but we managed to pass through them. We hope the future years will be very successful for all of us.

ACHILLE LAFRENIERE

by Lionel Malo

Achille was born March 17, 1902 in St. Flore, Quebec. He was raised on a dairy farm in Quebec. His dad and family came west to homestead in 1909. (refer to Elie Lafreniere story).



The Achille Lafreniere Family. From left to right: Mrs. Rachelle Lafreniere, Mr. Raymond Lafreniere, Mr. Achille Lafreniere, Mr. Victor Lafreniere.

Achille married Rachelle Gill April 10, 1927 in St. Paul and stayed on a farm that he had bought prior to getting married. They stayed there 13 years then bought Edmond Robinsons' General Store in Oct. 1940. They had three children: Victor, Raymond, and Roger. Victor was born on the farm on Feb. 1, 1929, and Raymond Aug. 8, 1931. Roger was born in 1933 but died at birth. Achille died June 30, 1954. Rachelle kept the store going with her sons. She still lives there, with Raymond's family.

ANTELAUS LAFRENIÈRE

by Rose Tremblay (Lafrenière)

Antelaus Lafrenière was the sixth child born to Elie Lafrenière and Cordillia Vincent, on March 2, 1899 in St. Flore, Quebec. He came west with the family to live on the homestead S.E. 1/4 2-56-10-W4th, then on to the other one, south east of Lafond. He remembers the 12 by 12 shack they had for their large family. Every night, he says, was dance time.

Antelaus married Laura Dumaine in St. Paul, with Father LaRose officiating, on October 11, 1927. They had a small dinner at his father's home. Then they went for supper at Dumaine's in St. Edouard with a few relatives and friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Lafrenière had 6 children, born at home, attended by a midwife, Mrs. Laboucane. They all attended Lac Bellevue School.

In 1919-20 was the year of the shortage of feed. Winter came early and the grain didn't get threshed. All winter, the men had to dig the stooks with shovels to get feed for the cattle. They had to drive about 50 miles to get grain. Many cattle starved to death that winter.

The house on the farm burned in June, 1934. Father was in town, mother at the neighbor's help-

ing Adrienne Desaulniers, whose mother had passed away shortly before, with her sewing. The children, Rose, Germain, Denise and I were with mother. All at once, mother looked up and saw the house on fire. Neighbors hurried over and saved some clothing and some food. All else was lost. That night there wasn't even a pail around to milk the cows. We lived in two granaries during the summer, while a log house was being built. We moved in towards fall.

Antelaus farmed for many years before going to St. Paul. Mrs. Laura Lafrenière died October 28, 1975. He has his home in St. Paul but the winter of 1979-1980 was spent in the Sunnyside Manor — a Senior Citizen's Home. He enjoys his life there and is considering selling his house and moving there permanently.

Here is a little about Antelaus and Laura's six children:

I, Rose married Louis-Aimé Tremblay, August 6, 1946, and live in St. Paul. We raised two children: Lorraine who married Lucien Leroux. They have 2 girls: Aline and Gisele.

Remi who married Carol Hutton. They have 2 girls: Dawn Marie, and Heather Lynn.

Germain married Irene Robinson in November 13, 1951 and they live in St. Paul. They had 5 children:

Louise who lives in Edmonton.

Marcel married Susan Woody from Jasper, June 22, 1974. They have 1 daughter Roxanne Gail, and 1 son, Corey and they all live in Donnelly. Hector married Betty-Ann Sadlowski of St. Paul on June 3, 1978.

Gerald is still at home attending school.

Leanne is also at home and attending school in St. Paul.

Denise married Maurice Robinson February 6, 1952. They are now living in Lloydminster. They had nine boys:

Guy married Judy Poty, October 23, 1971 and have two children: Roxanne and Richard.

Omer married Suzanne Chartrand August 30, 1975. They have two children Marc and Michelle.

Leo married Diane Vallée of St. Lina May 31, 1975, and they have one daughter, Chantal. They are living in Drayton Valley, Alberta.

Elie lives at Peace River.

André married Denise Coutu July 22, 1978, and they live in Two Hills. They have 2 boys: Jason and Daniel.

Jean married Patricia Korluk of St. Paul, June 30, 1978. They live in St. Paul, Alberta.

David married Lucille Cloutier from Falher, May 19, 1979. They live in Grande Prairie and have one boy, Nicholas.

Luc is still at home.

Alain is also at home.

Yvette married Joseph Lafortune on October 28,



Mr. and Mrs. Antelaus Lafrenière and their three children: Rose, Denise and Germain. Taken in 1935.



Antelaus Lafrenière and Laura Dumaine 1927, the year they married.

1953. They have 7 children:

Louise lives at Lloydminster.

Paul lives in Edmonton.

Laura lives in Edmonton.

Albert is at school in Lac La Biche.

Pauline is at school in St. Paul.

Jean is at home going to school in St. Paul.

Joseph is at home going to school in St. Paul.

Henri married Georgette Robinson, daughter of George Robinson, April 8, 1961. They had four children:

Suzanne married Gerald Bachelet, September 6, 1980.

Jeannine works with her parents at Super-Burger.

Roger is at home attending school in St. Paul.

Doris is also at home attending school in St. Paul.

Leo married Georgette Robinson, daughter of Arthur Robinson, May 20, 1961. They live in St. Paul. They have three children:

Diane is in her second year at University of Alberta.

Linda works at the Treasury Branch in St. Paul.

Bernard is still at school in St. Paul.

ELIE LAFRENIERE

by Rose Tremblay

Elie Lafreniere was born in St. Boniface, Quebec and married Cordillia Vincent in Manchester, Massachusetts, USA. They had seven children, all born in St. Flore, Quebec: Maria, Joseph, Rosalda, Elphege, Antonia, Antelaus and Achille.

Mrs. Cordillia Lafreniere died and Elie remarried in 1906. His second wife was Marie Louise Desaulniers (born in 1863).

In 1908, Elie decided that the West would give his family greater opportunities for the future, as conditions in Quebec were difficult — low living standards and very few good jobs. He came first to file for a homestead. The following year, in July, the family followed. In Vegreville, there was an empty house set up for immigrants, so they stayed

there for a short while before proceeding to the homestead S.E. 1/4 2-56-10-W4th. There Elie had built a log shack with a roof of dirt. That first year he broke fifteen acres of land which, the following year, he sowed with wheat — but it froze.

At first there was no church, no priest, no school and no doctors. To Mr. Lafreniere and family this was painful. They attended Mass in a little log house near where the present St. Laurent, Brosseau Church is located. Their shopping for groceries and other necessities was done in the Edmond Brosseau General Store.

The Lafreniere family stayed four years by the river and then moved to Lafond where they lived in another log shack for four months while they built a larger house in 1912. In 1934 this house burned. The nearest school was the Lac Bellevue School which the children attended.

1919 was a bad year! In the fall, they could not thresh because of the weather. Then the terrible winter hit the whole province, including the Lafond area — very low temperatures and deep snow. The horses could paw through the snow and were able to survive, however, the cattle had no feed so many froze to death in the drifts.

During the Depression years (hungry thirties) money became scarce. Hogs sold \$2 - \$3 each; good cattle for \$8 - \$10 each; oats at 10¢ a bushel and wheat for 25¢ a bushel. Flour cost \$2.00 for a 100-lb. bag.

Elie Lafreniere died March 17, 1923 and his wife Marie Louise, in 1938.

His family with Cordillia:

Marie (August 31, 1890) married Edmond Robinson in Brosseau, died April 1941.

Joseph (1890) died April 1941.

Rosalda (July 1, 1894) married Denis Lajoie who died. She remarried Charles Lambert. She died November 22, 1979.



The Elie Lafreniere Family. Back row: L-R Rosalda, Joseph, Maria. Front row: Antonia, Archille, father Elie, Antelaus, Elphege.

Elphege (April 5, 1896) married Leonille La-
pointe September 9, 1909 in Lafond, died March
12, 1939.

Antonia (December 16, 1898) married Conrad
Gill April 13, 1925 in Lafond and moved to St.
Vincent.

Antelaus (March 2, 1899) married Laura Du-
maine who died October 28, 1975.

Achille (March 17, 1902) married Rachelle Gill,
April 10, 1927, in St. Paul and he died June 30,
1954.

GERMAIN AND IRENE LAFRENIERE

by Germain Lafreniere

I, Germain Lafreniere, was born in Lafond,
Alberta in 1929. I married Irene Robinson in 1951.
I bought one quarter of land from my dad Antelaus
Lafreniere, two miles South of Lafond. In 1951 we
left the farm to go to work as a carpenter in Hinton,
as wages were good at the time. I stayed for one
year and came back to the farm. In 1965, we sold
our farm to Mr. and Mrs. Ray Lacombe.



The Germain Lafreniere Family. Standing L. to R.: Marcel, Hector,
Louise. Seated: Irene, Germain, Lee Anne, seated in front is Gerald.

We moved to St. Paul in 1965 and started an
Auto Wreckage. My dad and father-in-law, Francis
Robinson, were both helping me as, at the time,
we could not afford to pay wages. My son Hector
is now working with me.
We have five children:
Louise working in Edmonton.

Marcel working in Donnely.

Hector working in St. Paul.

Gerald and Lee Anne both at home going to school.

HENRI LAFRENIERE

by Henri Lafreniere

I, Henri Lafreniere bought the farm of my
father, Antelaus Lafreniere, in 1960, S.E. 22-56-10-
4. I was married to Georgette Robinson, by Father
Tardif on April 8, 1961.

In 1963, we had the misfortune of buying reg-
istered wheat for seed and putting it in a granary
in a field. A spring fire burned the whole thing.
Then I had to borrow money to buy more seed
grain.

In 1966, we sold this land and bought in St.
Edward. Doris was born here in Feb. 1968. We
didn't stay too long here, as we moved back to St.
Paul in the fall of 1969.

In 1969, we built a new house on an acreage in
the northwest end of town. When we lived here,
I was working for St. Paul Auto Wreckage. In 1972,
we moved on Henri Neveu's farm, west of town.
I was then working for N.A.D.P.

In 1976, we moved to Berwyn, in Peace River
District and bought a hotel there. We sold it in 1977,
and moved back to St. Paul in 1978.



Sue and Gerald were married, Sept. 6, 1980 in Lafond.



Our four children

This is when we bought Super Burger Drive-in, which we still operate.

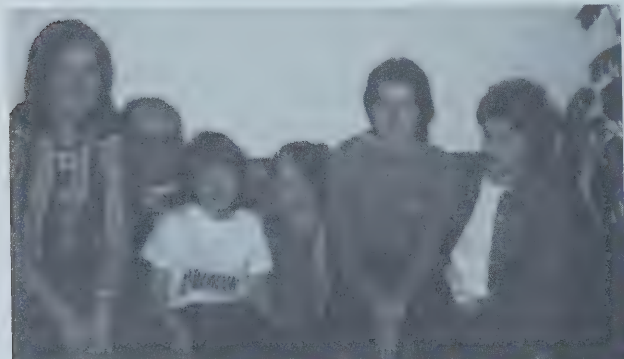
Our family consists of:

Susan who was born April 14, 1962 and baptized by Father Tardiff. She married Gerald Bachelet, Sept. 6, 1980.

Jeannine, born Oct. 11, 1963. She was baptized by Father L. Tellier. She is at home.

Roger was born June 22, 1965. He was baptized by Father L. Tellier.

Doris was born Feb. 19, 1968, and was baptized by Father Bérubé.



Taken in Feb. 1977 L.-R.: Jeannine, Henri, Doris, Roger, Susan. The Henri Lafreniere Family and Georgette.

RAYMOND AND YVONNE LAFRENIÈRE (NÉE MALO)

by Raymond Lafrenière

I was born in Lafond on August 8, 1931 and lived with my parents, Achille and Rachel Lafrenière, on the farm for 8 years. Then we moved to the hamlet of Lafond, when my parents bought the store from Edmond Robinson. I received my education at Lafond School. When I was old enough I started trucking with my father and brother, Victor.

In 1954, I married Yvonne Malo, daughter of Oscar Malo and Julienne Jean. Yvonne was born in 1935 in Lafond and lived on her parent's farm until she was married. She also had attended Lafond School. The family was lucky to have Emile Malo's family, second cousin, living across the road. There was always someone to play with.

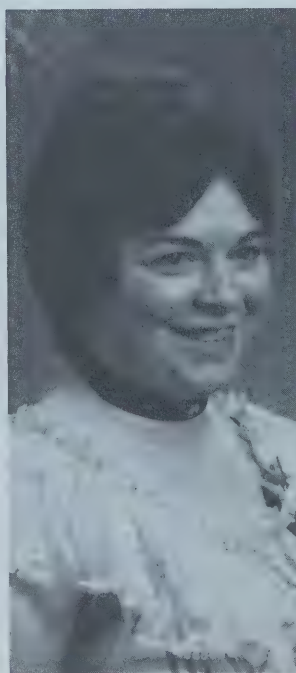


Raymond and Yvonne Lafreniere Wedding picture.

Yvonne and I lived and worked in Lafond Store since our marriage. We have two children.

Paul born February 14, 1959, took his elementary school grades in Lafond, finishing his schooling in St. Paul. He then took his mechanics training and is now a Journeyman Mechanic, working in St. Paul but living at home in Lafond.

Pauline was born November 9, 1961 on our 7th wedding anniversary. She also received her education in Lafond and St. Paul. She is now working in St. Paul.



Pauline Lafreniere.



Graduation picture Paul Lafreniere (Grad).

VICTOR LAFRENIERE

by Victor Lafreniere

I was born to Achille and Rachelle Lafreniere on a farm just 3 miles east of Lafond. The family moved to the Lafond hamlet in 1940, and lived in the rear of the store we had just bought from Edmond Robinson. In 1945 dad bought a 1940 Ford three ton truck with a grain box. He hauled grain for farmers and hauled livestock to Edmonton and hauled coal on the way back. In 1941 to 1949 he hauled farm cream from farmers to the Creamery in St. Paul. In 1947 I started driving a truck. It was a 1947 one ton Mercury. After a few months we traded it on a two-ton Merc. truck. In 1948 to 1950 we bought a Dodge three-ton truck equipped with a 1600 gal. tank and hauled gasoline from Calgary to Lafond with a payload of approximately \$90.00. By 1950 we started hauling gasoline from a refinery in Edmonton with a fifth wheeler. In 1951 we got rid of the gas haul and traded the truck on two School Busses. We traded with Leo-Paul Lafrance. In 1951 we bought a gravel truck and worked for St. Paul municipality. In 1952 we bought a second truck and went to work on the Airport in Medley. In 1953, we bought a third truck and hired a man to drive it.

Apr. 7, 1953 I got married to Juliette Foisy. Foisy.

Juliette Foisy was born in Foisy in 1929 to Arthur and Marie Foisy. She lived on the farm for 23 years and went to Foisy School to grade seven. She met me, Victor and we got married.

We first lived in a very little shack for a year while working on the airport in Medley. In 1954 I hauled gravel in Jasper with Armand Theroux and Norman Poulin. In the fall of 1954 we came back to Lafond and built the house in Lafond just kitty-corner to the store. We hauled stock and grain till 1962, while also driving the School bus.



First shack we lived in, in Medley 1953.

In 1962 we moved to S.W. 5-57-10-4 that we bought from George Robinson, where I am still living. In 1975 we took a trip to Quebec City to visit old friends and did some sight seeing. For a 25th anniversary present to each other, we went to Hawaii in 1978. We liked it so much that we went back in 1980. In 1981 we went to Las Vegas and lost our luggage. (When asked what a person does when the airline loses your luggage, the answer was simply put, "You just buy new clothes".)

Their children are:

Lilianne (born Feb. 14, 1954) Husband — Kenneth Wegner

Children: Julie, John, Jessica, James

Denis (Jan. 22, 1955) Wife — Christine Delawski
Child: April

Delina (Mar. 5, 1956) Husband — Glen Parker
Child: Catherine

Guy (April 24, 1957)

Alice (July 28, 1959)

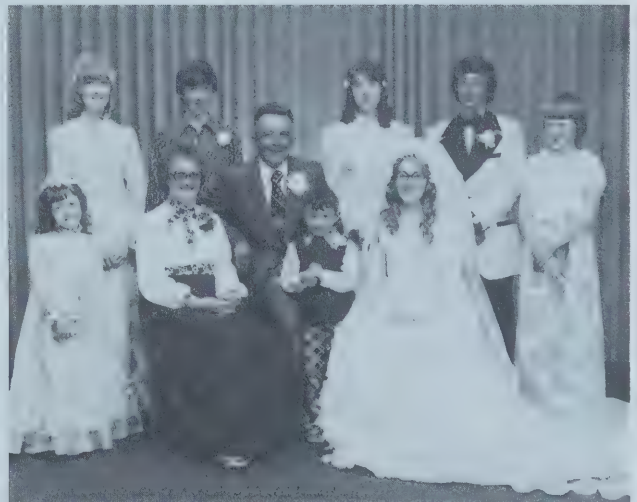
Vivianne (Jan. 6, 1962)

Carmen (Jan. 4, 1967)

Eric (Dec. 23, 1967)



Victor and Juliette Lafreniere. Wedding picture 1953.



Family picture taken at Lilianne's wedding. Back row: Delina, Guy, Alice, Denis, Vivianne; Front row: Carmen, Juliette, Victor, Eric, Lilianne.



Alex and Katie Lakusta at their 50th wedding anniversary. Top Left: Bernie Laing and wife Alexis, Manoly and wife Pauline, Richard Innes and wife Eleanor, Gail Bedyk and husband Ron, Mike and wife Mary, Roddy and wife Claire.

LAKUSTA, ALEX AND FAMILY

by Pauline Lakusta

Alex Lakusta was born in Ukraine on July 23, 1901. He immigrated to Canada with his parents in 1903, and the family settled in the Pruth district, seven miles south of Willingdon.

Alex married Katie Serediak in September, 1919. Katie was born in April, 1904 north of Mundare, Alberta.

They worked out and then rented land south

of Willingdon. Their first son, Mike, was born in the district of Soda Lake on October 19, 1921. A daughter, Mary, was born August 3, 1924, and another son, Manoly, in April 1928.

In 1928, they moved to S.E. 25-56-9-W4, where Alex farmed until he retired in 1960. In the "hungry thirties" he did some commercial fishing to help make ends meet.

Alex and Mike Skakun bought the first threshing machine in the neighborhood.



Katie and Alex Lakusta with grandchildren on their 50th wedding anniversary, 1969. Top L-R: Sharon, Eleanor, Alexis, Alex, Gail, Allan. Bottom L-R: Dale, Twila, Katie, Shelly, Donna, Eric, missing from picture Guida and grandson Cory.

Their sons Walter and Roddy were born at Lac Bellevue. Walter died when he was 18.

Alex died in February, 1973, and Katie died October 19, 1977.

LAKUSTA, MANOLY AND FAMILY

(by Pauline Lakusta)

Manoly Lakusta is the son of Alex and Katie Lakusta. He was born in the Soda Lake district in 1928 and later came with his parents to the Lac Bellevue district.

In 1947, he bought a $\frac{1}{2}$ section of land (S. $\frac{1}{2}$ 26-56-9-W4).

In 1951, he married Pauline Wannechko, the daughter of Paul and Nellie Wannechko, who was born in Red Water, Alberta and came to Lac Bellevue district in 1938. In March 1953, their first son Allan was born.

In 1954, Manoly and Pauline bought a quarter of land (N.E. 22-55-9-W4) from Frank Ostropolski where they lived until 1963. Two daughters, Sharon and Twila were born. A son, who was Twila's twin, didn't survive.

In 1963, they sold the farm, Manoly was employed by the County of St. Paul. In the fall, they moved to an acreage near St. Paul. One more daughter, Shelly, was born in 1964. The next year,



Manoly Lakusta in his earlier days. Notice how roofs were made by the homesteaders.

the acreage was sold, and the family moved into town, where they still live.

In 1973, they became owners of Harriet's Flower Shop, which is now Variety Flower and Gift Shoppe. In 1976, Manoly was employed by the Town of St. Paul, and is still working for them.

Allan had taken up cooking, and is now employed at the Mayfield Inn as a chef.

Sharon married Ronald Kmiech in 1977 and moved to Red Deer, where she graduated from the College in Rehabilitation Services. They have two daughters, Katherine and Sarah, and the family lives in Red Deer.



The Manoly Lakusta Family on their 25th Wedding Anniversary 1976. Back L-R: Allan, Shelley, Twila, Sharon. Front: Pauline, Manoly.



Sharon's Family L-R: Sharon, Sarah, Ron, Katherine.

Twila is employed by the Dominion Government, R.C.M.P. 'K' Division in Edmonton.

Shelley lives at home as she still attends school. She is active in Ukrainian dancing with the St. Paul Dancers and the Lakeland Dancers. She has also been teaching the Bonnyville Ukrainian Dancers for three years.

LAKUSTA, MIKE AND FAMILY

Mike Lakusta was born October 19, 1921 in the Soda Lake district near Willingdon. In 1929, the family moved to S.W.25-56-9-W4, and Mike helped to get the farm established. He enjoyed farming, even though it meant a lot of hard work. Harvesting and threshing in the Fall were the work he enjoyed most.

In 1944, Mike married Mary Krankowski, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mike Krankowski. Mary had lived with her parents on the farm in the Lake Elza district. In 1945, Mike and Mary were able to settle on their own farm (N.W.25-56-9-W4). It wasn't easy farming then, as most of the farmers still worked with horses. The Lakusta family liked to work together and help one another.

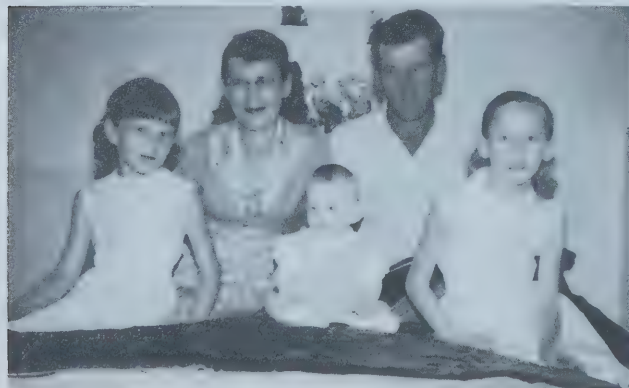
Mike was also involved with the Farmers' Union for Swedeboro: F.U.A. Local #455 of Lake Eliza.

On March 9, 1946 the first child was born, Richard Michael, but he died in July of that year.

Mike and Mary have three children: Eleanor, Gail, and Eric.

Eleanor and Gail went to Lac Canard School, the same one their dad had attended. Later this school was closed, so they had to go by school bus to Glen Avon School in St. Paul.

After farming for fifteen years, Mike and Mary decided to try something different. They sold the farm on March 11, 1959 and moved first to St. Paul so the girls could finish their term of school. As soon as school was out, they moved to Edmonton, where they still live. Mike works for Poole Construction.



Mike and Mary Lakusta Family.



Journal Photo.

The children are all married and all living in Edmonton. Eleanor married Richard Innes in 1966. He works as a manager for A.G.T. They have four children: Richard Jr. (11), Scott (8), Shawn (4), and Laura (3).

Gail married Ron Bedyk in 1968. His home town was Smoky Lake. They now own their own business, Canadian Welding and Manufacturing Ltd. Their children are Chris (9), Leah, born in 1973 died in 1976, and Bradly (6).

Eric married Beverly Kadtz in 1976. He is an electrician.

EUGÈNE LAMOUREUX

by Charles Lamoureux

Eugène Lamoureux, born at Lamoureux, Alberta, was son of Théophile Lamoureux who came from Henryville, county of Iberville, Québec. Théophile was the son of Albert Lamoureux.

Two brothers François and Joseph Lamoureux moved to the U.S. at different times during the early 1850's. One had been in California during the gold rush, the other came west with a wagon train. They met in Oregon and decided to go to the Caribou country where gold had been discovered. Where Kamloops is today, they met members of a government party surveying the proposed continental railway, and learned from them of the valley of the Saskatchewan as a possible advantageous land for permanent settlement. Following the survey marks east, they arrived there in 1872; two years before the Northwest Mounted Police established their fort across the river, and took homesteads on the north side of the river.

In 1875, Joseph went back to Henryville to get his family which included among others, his son-in-law Théophile, who was his daughter Zelia's husband. The young couple's first child was born on the way to St. Boniface where they spent the winter. On his arrival at Lamoureux, Théophile



Eugene and Eva — June 1905.

bought a piece of land from an original member of the Mounted Police for \$400.00 and settled there. He and his family farmed the land and at various times, also ran the store, hotel and post office.

Euène, our father, was born of this family, the fourth of a family of eleven, on April 20, 1883. He attended the first school organized at Lamoureux (the 2nd in Alberta) and in his teens, when his mother passed away, he stayed with Reverend E. Dorais, the parish priest, by whom he was tutored in latin and organ music. This knowledge served Euène in good stead later, when he played the organ in church there and later in Lafond. He bought a farm in the Lamoureux district and in June, 1905, married Eva Godbout, daughter of Sirice Godbout and Florida Langis.

Eva was born in Ste Luce, Quebec. Her parents moved west to Lamoureux but at the age of six, she was sent back east with relatives where she completed her education. She returned at the age of 17 and married Eugène. Four children, Théophile, Narcisse, Émile and Alice were born to them during their stay at Lamoureux.

In 1907, the pioneering spirit surfaced when Eugène heard of land being opened for homesteads around St. Paul. He claimed one, the N.W. Sec. 19-57-10-4 and returned the four following years,

when time off his farm permitted, to build a house and a barn and to break some land. In June, 1912, after selling his farm in Lamoureux, the family moved in a horse drawn democrat, following the old Victoria Trail. This was to be their home for 4 years and that is where Léon and Robert were born. In 1915 Eugène acquired the S.E. 30-57-10-4 and built a larger 2-storey house, with the help of Joe LaFlamme and Louis Gagnon. The family moved in the fall but the home was not quite finished, so even the children helped to chink the logs with tightly folded rags. A lot of firewood was used that winter, even then, the potatoes froze in the cellar. The windows were forever covered with a half-inch of frost and in the evening, no one strayed too far away from the oven door. Good water was hard to find, so Eugène purchased a cable tool well drilling machine with which he drilled wells from Edmonton to Vegreville, in Saddle Lake and St. Paul. He drilled two wells at home and we had good cold, hard water. Eva was well occupied trying to keep the growing family clothed and fed. She was a good seamstress and a good cook and used to bake loaves of bread for the bachelors in the neighborhood. Eugène, like the forebears, was ready to fix anything for his neighbors, and among his occupations was pulling teeth, delivering babies, playing the organ and singing at church, acting in plays, soldering milk pails, babbitting burnt bearings, overhauling engines and so on. None of this was done for money, it was part of frontier living.

Except through the epidemics of chicken pox, measles, scarlet fever and the mumps, which most of the children caught when these passed, we were mostly quite healthy. During the influenza which



Four generations — Father, Henri Lamoureux, Grandfather, Emile Lamoureux, Great-grandfather, Eugene Lamoureux, holding Monique, Henri's daughter.



Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Lamoureux on their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

took so many people after World War I, none of us got sick, which may have been due to the fact that every time father came back after contact with the outside, he boiled creolin with water on the stove. We sputtered and our eyes watered, but it may have saved us. It was mandatory for those going to public places to wear masks over the mouth and nose.

Our mother had all her babies at home with the help of midwives, Mrs. Michel Laframboise, Mrs. Batoche, Mrs. A. Lavoie, Mrs. C. Tremblay. Seven more children were born, Germaine, André, Charles, Bernard, François, Laurent and Jean Pierre. There was only a four-bed hospital in town, so when there was a serious illness, you had to be treated at home under the supervision of Dr. Gagnon of St. Paul. Mother kept a chart of the temperature and symptoms for a week, which she took to the doctor (10 miles away) for instructions and medicine. On recovery, one of the recommended blood builders was an eggnog with 2 tablespoons of brandy everyday. During prohibition, liquor was obtained through a prescription only. When Germaine was staying at the convent in St. Paul, she took sick during a howling blizzard. The doctor needed the parent's permission to operate so he sent Rosaire Moisan, 10 miles, to our place on horseback in the dead of night. Dad gave Rosaire five dollars, then harnessed old Jenny, a faithful old sway back mare, hitched her to the cutter and he and mother went to town. Whenever some of the children got sick

dad's remedy was ginger. I can still hear him coming across the room stirring the hot ginger with a spoon, saying, "Here, drink this, it's going to do you good". He recalled that in the early days at the Fort, someone was quite sick with no medical aid available. Some frontier horse doctor stirred up a cup of gunpowder for the patient. Come to think of it, old gunpowder was made of sulphur, saltpeter and charcoal, so it wasn't that bad after all. Another remedy was Sloan's Egyptian Liniment. This stuff could be rubbed on an aching body, a few drops in a spoonful of sugar made you feel warm inside. Most important, it stank and made your eyes water, so you felt you were being treated.

The Lafond area was being populated at a great rate, so our father helped to organize the Cartier School District and was secretary for several years. The two oldest boys, Théophile and Narcisse, went to school in Lafond from 1912 to 1916, four miles away, until the school at Cartier was ready in 1917. The other children attended this school which was only 2 miles distant. During summer we walked, but on very cold days we were driven, or drove ourselves, and the horses were sheltered at Mr. Lavoie's across the road. Mr. Simon Mury was the teacher at Cartier school for seven years. He organized a garden on the school ground where each family had a plot of vegetables which they had to weed and water all summer. At harvest time the children decorated a hay rack, piled in their best vegetables and art exhibits such as penmanship, then set off to St. Paul with sing songs all the way. There were always some coming back with ribbons. There were no Christmas concerts at that time but there was an end of school-year program of songs and recitations on the day promotions were handed out in June.

In 1927 Father Hamelin was named colonizer and took Eugène and others to McLennan in the Peace River district to look at land for settlement. In the fall of that year, three of the oldest boys, Théophile, Narcisse and Emile, who were at the time only 20, 18 and 16 years of age, went there to take homesteads. The tale of unremitting toil and privation that they had to endure to clear that tall timber and farm, can best be told by them — it would take a whole book. So it came to be that Eugène, who had come to St. Paul to find land for his boys, had to take them to the Peace River country.

Nearly every spring, we had to fight prairie fires before they reached our farm. There was, at those times, a full barrel of water ready on a stone-boat and lots of gunny sacks. Fire guards were plowed if there was time. A few times, fire raged perilously close to the buildings. Once our parents had to take all the furniture from the house, to the garden, for safety.

One summer, Eugène was breaking land with



Eugene and Eva's 50th Wedding Anniversary 1955.

his Waterloo Bay tractor for Mr. Omer Coté. While backing up, after the plow had got stuck on a stump, his foot slipped between the hitch and the plow and the engine stalled. There he was, helpless, luckily Mr. Coté was around and after a few tries managed to push the plow back. Someone was walking around with a cast on his foot for quite a while.

After purchasing a threshing machine and tractor, our father did a lot of threshing for the neighbors as well as his own. We used to see him on the kitchen floor, lacing thresher belts by lantern light, after everyone had gone to bed. Some years, he had an all Indian crew. Some of them camped in the woods by the fields and we used to play with their children. They thought an old straw stack was the greatest thing to slide on. Once, it was an all-Irish crew, when he was operating Mr. Lawler's threshing outfit. Our mother said that she had never seen men eat so many potatoes.

The Indians from Saddle Lake Reserve would make hay around Duck Lake during the summer. Some evenings we could hear them play their drums. Some of them would pass by our place when hauling their loads of hay to St. Paul. Once, on their way back, six of them stopped at our place with a jug of wine that they had bought with the proceeds of the hay. They offered us a drink and then sat in a circle in the middle of the yard and passed the jug around. When it got dark they decided to go home. The next morning on my way to get the cows, I discovered that one of their wagons had lost its rear wheels and axle but the rest of the rig was nowhere to be seen. During the fifties, we hired many of them to pick rocks and roots, when time was short, which was a great help to us. Our land, being so close to the reserve, was invaded by gophers for many years. We had to spread poisoned bait during the summer, otherwise they would eat almost half the crop, especially

in dry summers. In later years when trees grew on the east side of the reserve, they stopped coming into our fields.

Our father used to grow his own tobacco, then store it in a small shed and when dry, put it in a press he had made to compact it so it would keep fresh. This was all O.K. but one year he had bought a good milk cow that somehow got into the tobacco shed and gorged herself on this new feed. Needless to say she soon died. Not too long after, this incident was repeated with another cow. Realizing that it was cheaper to buy his tobacco, he never grew any after that.

Money was scarce but still buildings had to be built to shelter the livestock. Many farmers of the district would go to the Moose Hills (32 miles east) in winter to cut logs and have them sawn into lumber. They would also cut tamarack fence posts and rails. The sawmill owner would charge \$4.00 per 1000 ft. and we would have to haul the water and make firewood for the steam engine, also clear the lumber, slabs and sawdust, as part of the deal. It was hard work but the men still had energy left to tell jokes and stories after the evening meal. Some of the old-timers would go to this camp year after year and enjoyed it. Once in a while, someone would come to camp with a jug of moonshine, then things would sometimes get out of hand. One night someone had stolen a turkey on the way to camp and while we were resting, late in the evening, he cut the head off the turkey, opened the door of our shack and threw it inside. You can imagine the mess, with the turkey jumping all over and blood and feathers flying.

Our father used to like the idea of prospecting for gold, as he had panned for gold on the Saskatchewan River in his youth. When he made lumber in the Moose Hills, he thought that there might be gold present according to an old Indian story. He and a few friends, among them Mr. Charles



Narcisse and Yvonne
Lamoureux.

Marcoux, sank a shaft in the hills but had to abandon it due to flooding and slippage. He later went prospecting with Mr. Marcoux, who had been to the gold rush in the Klondyke. They brought back some "colors" but no great fortune.

As time passed on, the family grew to 13 and the depression was on. Things got so bad that if everybody had not been in the same boat, so to speak, it would have been impossible to endure. Mother baked huge loads of bread, biscuits and great iron pots of beans, rabbit, chicken, anything to feed those hungry kids. Old coats were torn apart to make jackets for the school children and she would knit woolen mittens, socks, scarves and sweaters. In the fall she would order everything from Eatons. It was great fun to see her pull out warm winter clothes, mitts and shoes from the three foot square box, for one and all. Some years the box was a lot smaller and at times there was no box, so everyone had to make do with hand-me-downs. Our father would sometimes go to Myrnam where there was a good flour mill. He would take in a load of wheat and return with the wagon box piled high with sacks of flour, middlings and bran. We ate a lot of bran biscuits then.

Eugène had a 45 caliber six shooter that hung on the wall and no one paid attention to it. One day, we found a bullet for it, in an old vest. We gave it to Dad who was to use it to shoot a cow for the winter meat supply. Well, either the powder or his eyes were failing because the cow got away and he had to dispatch her with the carbine. He had bought this rifle after a valuable silver fox had crossed his trail but never shot much with it, except once. While he was building the house which had no windows yet, he heard a shout just as he was about to make dinner. Looking outside, he saw a moose approaching, with two men following on horseback. He picked up his carbine which was loaded and laying on his cot dropped the moose from the window opening. They all had a nice moose steak for dinner. During the depression, many immigrants and unemployed were walking the roads in two's and three's. Poor as they were, our father could not hire them because of lack of money. He hired two one summer to grub trees on the far quarter. Apart from Mr. Davis who had helped with the drilling rig, we don't recall having hired men

about. Louis Belland from St. Paul had purchased the quarter section across the road from us and hired two Frenchmen to cut trees. Those chaps would come and get potato peels, from mother, which they probably used to make soup. They had a great accordion with them and it was a pleasure to hear them play it. There were threshing crews, firewood sawing crews and for them mother could outdo herself cooking large amounts of delicious pies and goodies which the kids enjoyed as much as the men.

It's a good thing that the farmers didn't have the weeds that we have today or they would have quit. Stink weed came to our farm in the middle thirties. There was wild oats and quack grass but by and large, all the pioneers had to contend with was a few pig weeds. Today a farmer is hard put to name the dozens of weeds that infest the land.

Our father had bought four tractors in all, two Sawyer Masseys' and two John Deere Waterloo Boys: They were slow, lumbering things with exposed gears that wouldn't last in the grinding dust. He used them mostly for breaking land, threshing and chopping grain. He ground grain for the neighbors and his favorite tractor for that was the Waterloo Bay. The spark plugs had to be taken off and warmed on the kitchen stove, then he would start the tractor on gas and switch to coal oil later, for more power. We got used to see big burly farmers coming to the house to warm up and speaking in loud voices, as they spread their hands over the hot stove.

Among the neighbors surrounding the Lamoureux homestead at Lafond were: Carrise Tremblay, Bill Parkinson, Louis Moreau, Pierre Coté, Jim Cormack, Edward Leblanc, Arthur Fontaine, Adelard Chamberland, Philias and Joe Vandal, Louis Gagnon, Oscar Guindon, Romulus Lafond, Urbain Lafond, Auguste Lavoie, Basile Jean, Philias Jean,



Eugène, Germaine, Eva (Lamoureux) — (father, daughter and mother).



Yvette, Honore, Nelson, Lionel. Front: Julia, Germaine, Robert.

Napoléon Bergeron, Ernest Pigeon, Eugène Lafortune, Pete, Joe and Willy Bolduc, Elzear, Leon and Hector Frazer, Aimé Tremblay, David Charron, Joe Lafrance, Joe Coté, Omer Coté, Alfred Toutant, Joe Beauregard, Ernest Leboeuf, Philippe Couillard, Albert Taurangeau, Nick Scraba, Thomas Gagnon, Wilfrid Pepin, John Looy, Philippe Venne, Gros Louis Batoche.

One summer our father bought a model T Ford touring, complete with top and side curtains for \$60.00. It was in perfect shape and did not have a dent on it. That meant we didn't have to roll the democrat wheels to the slough on Saturday night to make them tight for the trip to church the next day. The model T was a great boon to us. The smell of the fabric used on the seats and top reminded one of the open roads. We were going to go places and do things. In winter, hot coals had to be put under the transmission and rear end, one wheel would be jacked up, boiling water poured through the engine till it got warm, then after a few turns of the crank, presto, instant transportation. We would pile in and go to church with father at the helm. Once, at Lafond, after midnight mass, as we turned at the store, a gust of wind ripped the top in two and there we were, looking at the stars at 30°F below. He used the model T to go to the Peace River country to visit the boys there, and go pros-

pecting with Mr. Charles Marcoux as well as local trips. Some people used to borrow the car and sometimes we would borrow the neighbor's license plate to go to town. Eventually the depression got so bad that we could not afford the gas anymore so the car was converted to a bennett wagon. With no gas, the tractor would sit in the yard with robin's nests in their gears until it was started for threshing. The kids had fun playing with those old machines. One exercise was for one to crawl into the straw blower pipe of the thresher while the other cranked him around for an aerial ride. The pigs were lean and hungry, at least the sows were. The grain usually was all sold off to buy necessities, so in summer, the sows were fed grain cut with a scythe. They relished it but were awful fence climbers. As the fences were raised, the sows' prowess at climbing increased as fast as the height of the rails. One fall all the crop froze so badly, that it wasn't worth cutting, so it was left standing. In the spring, fire was set to it and oats drilled directly into the ashes, without cultivating. Dad got the best crop of oats he ever saw. There was oats everywhere on the ground, bins and chicken coop and the neighbors were recruited to shovel it around.

Things started to get better just before the 2nd Word War, when wheat went up to \$1.00 a bushel. The price of cream was going up slowly but it still was a struggle. No sooner did things start to improve when the government put rationing on gas and a ceiling on the price of wheat. During the Second World War, in the early 40's, the family purchased a small two-plow tractor of the latest model. What a relief to be able to climb aboard and start it any time (it was very quiet) and work all day without a breakdown. We were on the way to farming again. In 1945 a pull type combine replaced the thresher and dad bought an old Graham Page truck to haul the grain. It was great to see the last of those damnable stooks. No more sore backs and fingers. Robert bought a bigger tractor of five-plow size, to farm the old Louis Gagnon place that he had purchased. A lot of dirt was going to get moved that hadn't moved before. After the war, in 1946, a self-propelled combine and a two-ton truck were purchased which increased the threshing capabilities to the extent that the Lamoureux brothers went to the United States in 1947 to harvest, leaving in



Theophile Lamoureux (right) with Paul Giroux — Aug. 4, 1934 at Great Bear Lake, N.W.T. They hold a ball of silver used as a shot put. Theophile drown ½ hour later.



Robert and Julia Lamoureux on their wedding day, taken on the Lafond Church steps. L-R: Mr. Oscar Malo, Julia, Robert and Mr. Eugene Lamoureux. July 19, 1955.

June and returning in time to harvest back home. Harvesting started in Texas, then Oklahoma, Kansas, South Dakota, Montana and finally back in Alberta. This was repeated in 1948 with two combines and two trucks. The crew found out what hot weather was like. In Winter, South Dakota, the temperature went to 115°F in the shade. Try shovelling grain and you'll sweat a bit.

André bought the old Chamberland homestead, west of the home place, from Mr. Richard. Later he bought Edward Leblanc's home quarter, then one of the Fontaine quarters from Napoleon Tremblay. Before the war, Leon had bought the Philippe Venne half-section south of Oscar Guindon, from Mr. Richard. Later Charles bought it from him and Leon moved to Louis Gagnon's farm near highway 28 and across from Cyrice Lafrance. Francois bought Eugène's half section and Eugène and Eva moved to St. Paul. Bernard went to McLennan and purchased land there. Alice married Léo Mailloux during the war. Léo had come from Quebec to Lafond to visit his brother Paul, who was Parish priest here. Germaine had been with the Sisters of Assumption since before the war. She taught in Alberta for a few years, then during the war, taught

Japanese children in the B.C. internment camps. This work attracted her and she moved to Japan to teach in mission there, where she is today. Théophile, the oldest, drown in Great Bear Lake, Northwest Territories in 1934, where he had gone to work for the radium mining company. At this writing, 1980, Narcisse is still on the farm in McLennan. On March 18, 1971 Eva passed away at the age of 83. Eugène passed away on August 14, 1973. Jean Pierre the youngest passed away in January, 1979.

In 1967, Charles and François sold their land to Frank Schwengler, who came from Beiseker. André sold his farm to Joe Krochmal of Lafond. Robert rented his land to Ray Berreth for a few years, then sold to George Davidson of Edmonton. Léon sold his land to Ben Jacques.

Narcisse and Bernard are in McLennan, Emile is in Okanogan Falls, B.C. Alice and Léon are in Edmonton, Germaine is in Japan, Robert and André are in St. Paul, Charles and François are in Lafond, Laurent is in Red Deer.

Narcisse married Yvonne Houle and have three children — Denis, Raymond and Jeannette.

Emile married Germaine Valiquette and they have five children — Henri, Rene, Rita, Claire and Eva.

Alice married Leo Mailloux and they have seven children — Monique, Marie-Line, Rémi, Paul, Thérèse, Jean-Claude, and Michelle.

Leon married Agatha Looy and they have seven children — Jeanne, Yvonne, Lionel, Arthur, Diane, Raymond and Marcel.

Robert married Julia Foisy (Prysunka) a widow with four children — Nelson, Honore, Yvette, and Lionel. They had one girl, Germaine.

André married Germaine Neveu and they have three children — George, Gerard and Michel.

Bernard married Yvonne Valiquette and they have three children — Eugene, Richard and Jacqueline.

Jean Pierre married Thérèse Joyal and they have one child — Deborah.

Birthdays are as follows:

Eugene — April 20, 1883
 Eva — Nov 2, 1887
 Theophile — May 9, 1906
 Narcisse — Feb 20, 1908
 Emile — Jan 3, 1910
 Alice — Jan 7, 1912
 Leon — June 11, 1914
 Robert — July 14, 1916
 Germaine — Sept 11, 1918
 Andre — Sept 4, 1920
 Charles — Dec 8, 1922
 Bernard — Jan 11, 1925
 Francois — May 20, 1927
 Laurent — Mar 10, 1929
 Jean Pierre — July 20, 1930

LAFOND'S THREE PILOTS WITH THEIR PLANES.



Rene Tremblay, brother of Mrs. Blanche Parkinson, with a great airplane, an Aeronca.



Charles Lamoureux with his Aeronca H.Q.I. in 1963.



Frank Lamoureux, in Phoenix with his 210 Cessna.

THE LANFERMANN FAMILY

by the Lanfermann family

Franz Heinrich Lanfermann — born at Garrel, Germany, on Nov. 23, 1896.

Maria Johanna Willer — born at Allenoythe, Germany, on Oct. 28, 1903.

They were married in Allenoythe on Sept. 2, 1926. Lived in Garrel till April 1927. They boarded the boat, York, at Bremerhafen, Germany on April 5, 1927, arriving at Halifax, N.S. on April 15, 1927. The boat trip cost \$555 *each* which included the train fare as far as Winnipeg, Man. Took another train from there to St. Gregor, Sask. The entire train trip took 4 days. The worked for a farmer at St. Gregor for a year but didn't get paid as the farmer kept making one excuse after another. Frank even lent the farmer some money but never got that back either. In April 1928 they moved to St. Paul, Alta. again travelling by train. They took up a homestead in the Many Lakes District, approximately 10 miles south of St. Paul. They lived in a log cabin on the homestead for 10 years before building a house. They bought a team of horses, a second-hand stove and a wash tub and after that didn't have any money left. Things were rough without money. Frank cut wood for as little as 50¢ per day. They both cleared brush and burnt it, often working from daylight till dark. Added cows, chickens and pigs to farm but it all took time and hard work. They sold eggs for 5¢ a dozen. Mary said she never forgot one time they had to get a plowshare and caulder sharpened which cost \$8.00, so they sold a 400 pound pig but only got \$3.60 for it, so had to leave the plowshare till they could save the money to pay for it. Milked cows and shipped the cream. Also grain farming. Mary made her own bread and butter. Put in a garden each summer and canned for the winter. They also had lots of bad luck with the loss of cows or the loss of crops due to hail.

They had three children, Mary, born May 1928. Henry born May 1931 and Marguerite born Feb. 1937.

The children went to a country school — Many Lakes School — 1½ miles away — walked there and back each day. The children — like all farm children — helped with the chores after school.

Frank and Mary retired from the farm in Jan. 1965, leaving the farm to their son, Henry. They moved to Edmonton and bought a house there. Mary got a job with the Family Service Association in June of 1966 and worked for them till Dec. 1976, at which time she got quite ill and was in the hospital for several weeks. She just was too restless to just sit at home so felt she wanted to work out, so did until illness struck. She is in fine health now and Frank is too except for having arthritis. They spend their evenings either watching T.V. or going to bingo's. There is a senior citizens drop in center right next door to where they live, which has different func-

tions for older people to get involved in, such as bingo's one afternoon a week, whist another afternoon, bridge, etc.

They lost their oldest daughter, Mary, to cancer, in Dec. 1980.

Their son Henry has now moved to Vernon, B.C.

Their daughter Marguerite lives in Edmonton.

They have 12 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.

JOSEPH ALLYRE (AUDET) LAPOINTE'S FAMILY

by his children

Dad's ancestors emigrated from France in the year 1664 under the name of Audet; they settled in the Province of Quebec. Later on, they each possessed a piece of land and they were disposed in the form of a triangle. And every time they referred to the Audet at the top of the triangle they would say: Audet la pointe (In French — Audet de *la* *pointe*) and that is where originated the name of Lapointe. By the time my dad was born the new name was well used, and there was no more mention of "Audet", except when they wanted to re-trace the relatives.

Joseph was born on September 6, 1884 at Ste. Marie de Beaupré, P.Q. His father was Philias Lapointe and his mother Malvina Vachon-Pomerleau. The grandparents were Jean-Theodule (Audet) Lapointe and Angele Ste. Hilaire both from Quebec also.

Our grandfather Philias had eight children and dad was the oldest. His dad died young, so one of his uncles, Napoleon Pomerleau took him to Edmonton in 1902, where he could receive an education and make a little money to send to his mother in need.

In 1906, dad and his brother Henry, decided for a three acre homestead in Lafond and settled ½ mile south of Chesterville. They each built a small shack and covered it with peat-moss. On rainy days, it wasn't so funny; the table was hung to the



50th Wedding Anniversary, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Lapointe.



Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Lapointe family: Back row: Yvonne, Armand, Leonille. Front row: Sister Germaine, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Lapointe, Sister Simonne.

ceiling and they protected themselves by standing under it.

Among the homesteaders, some had pretty girls, so Joseph soon chose the best one by the name of Emma, daughter of Etienne Fouquette and Cazille Montcalm. Both were from Canada but incidentally Emma was born in the States while the parents were on a trip . . . so was she American? hardly; one thing is that she always kept her Canadian language and spirit.

In 1908, Lafond was at its start, as a mission. Mass was celebrated in a granary belonging to Eugene Foisy, at other times at Ernest Cloutier's place, later in Ovila Jean's home. Father Husson from Saddle Lake and Father Clermont from Brosseau each took a Sunday to say mass. As there was no resident priest in Lafond, Joseph and Emma decided to get married in St. Paul, Alberta on September 8, 1908.

Life in the West wasn't the easiest with its grounds covered with rocks, its difficulties of transportation, so our parents returned to Beverley, North of Edmonton where they opened a grocery store; things were going quite well for some years until the First World War started. Men had to choose between joining the army or settling on a homestead where they could provide for their family's needs. At the time, 1917, three pretty girls had joined the family: Leonille, Yvonne and Simone. Joseph decided to move back to Lafond and took a quarter section North West of 6-10-4, 13 miles away from the C.N. Station in St. Paul.

Joseph found great progress in Lafond since he had left the first time, such as:

1. A post office was held by Borromé Lafond since 1909.

2. In 1912 a chapel had been built south of the present rectory.
3. In 1915 Father Hamlin, 1st resident priest had arrived from the province of Quebec; a rectory was soon built and the first baptism was performed on August. 15, 1915. The second church was built in 1926 and the first one used to teach catechism.
4. In 1916 a public school was constructed and later held as many as twelve grades. Soon after our parents' arrival in Lafond, Hormidas Mantha opened the first store, i.e. in 1918.

Pioneer life on the homestead began by finding our way through the stones and mud; there were no roads, only a little trail, hardly wide enough for horses and a wagon. A temporary house was made of rough wood or logs and the roof was covered with peat-moss, until later, a more decent roof could be made; the floor was made of 2" x 6" of rough, unpolishable planks which had to be cleansed with a brush and lye. For many years, it was a substitute for paint, linoleum or carpet. A tiny wood-burning stove was used for cooking and heating the house. A hand washing machine and a scrub board did the trick for many decades; all linen and food were made right in the home; the clothes went from one child to the next, starting with the baptismal robe. We remember our mother getting a knitting machine. She made up to 12 pairs of socks a day and sold them in order to pay for her machine; the small commission she received was a minimum.

The outside also had to be taken care of; build a barn and a granary, a pig-pen, dig a well or two, one close to the house and the other close to the barn. Only farmers know all that was needed at



60th Wedding Anniversary, of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Lapointe — Rev. Langevin, Leonille Lapointe, Simonne Lapointe, Armand Lapointe, Yvonne Lapointe, Germaine Lapointe, Rev. Joseph Fouquette. Center: Mr. and Mrs. Lapointe.

that time. It was also important to till the ground; they started by picking up all the stones with a homemade stone-boat; a one-furrow plough and a sulky were used for the breaking of land; seed was sown by hand at the beginning: "One must sow if he wants to reap afterwards."

Travelling and freighting was by horse and wagon between Lafond, St. Paul and Vegreville in order to get supplies or to sell cattle; it took a week for the trip; the overnight stopping place was at grandpa's house, Etienne Fouquette; he would provide for a shelter for the animals and the travellers would line up on the floor, with their sleeping bed or with a blanket. Both men and horses would regain strength to continue their journey the next day.

For homesteaders, life was quiet since neighbors were so far away, however, expeditions of all sorts cheered up the daily life, such as fishing, chasing wild game, hunting ducks, partridges, moorhen; children chased gophers and sold the tails for one penny because those queer animals did a great damage to the grain. In winter, families played cards among themselves and ended the evening with a succulent tomato soup and fresh toasts. Dad also played the accordion and we loved to hear him.

In summer, there was berry picking; being close to the Saddle Lake Reserve we were fortunate to get all the fresh strawberries; we canned some for the winter. We drove to Beaver River, North of Glendon, to get our supply of blueberries; hazel nuts were found in the bush on our farm.

With time, mother enlarged her garden and planted a gooseberry bush, some red and black currants bushes, so we made our yearly wine, no need to go to the vintager, however, children did not drink before the age of 21, making an exception on our oldest sister's wedding. One of the children took a few sips of wine, dropped the salt shaker

on the edge of the sugar bowl and broke it; this joke lasted for many years.

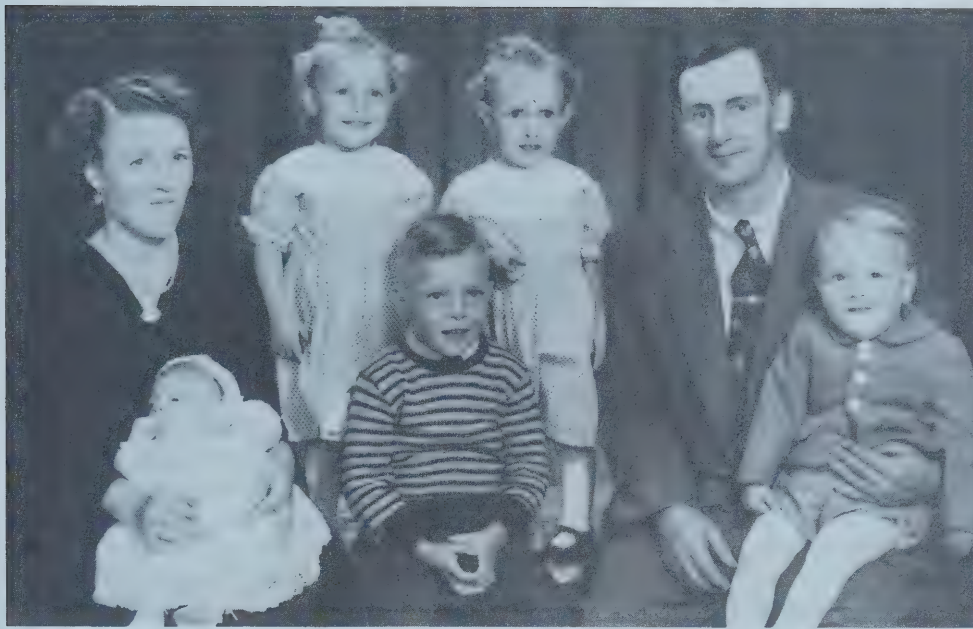
Year round the people gathered for socials which consisted of local picnics, telling stories, jokes, singing, playing music; there was the band and the lawn dancing; there were card parties, basket socials where each one endeavoured to get the best girl to eat with, no matter what was the price and all of this was to raise funds for the Church, the new one which is still in use was built in 1926. In 1931 spruce trees were planted around the church. They also provided for a grave yard. Father Tardif was the first priest to be buried in Lafond after dying of a heart attack. The second was Father Ricard who after a holiday in England, died in a car accident when returning from the airport in 1969.

The inhabitants in Lafond were also involved in politics. Joseph was official reporter for the Municipal elections — he became secretary trustee of the School Board — for many years he took the census of the parish and environment — he was secretary of the cowbill group — he was named churchwarden and took part in the church choir.

At home, each had his work schedule, no one was idle from morn till night. While father worked in the field and mother did the house work, we in turn had to fetch the cows, even as far as Foisy at times; we milked them, passed the milk through the separator, fed milk to the calves, washed the separator, prepared the breakfast and got our lunch ready and away to school, for we had three miles to walk in all season. Education went up to grade ten at that time. On our way back from school we again fetched the cows, then milked them, had supper, said the rosary and evening prayer together, then had a few hours of study, washed the dishes regularly, then played a few games of cards amongst the family even till late in the evening. As you see, there was never a dull moment around the house



Wedding picture of Mr. and Mrs. Armand Lapointe.



Mr. and Mrs. Armand Lapointe and family. Denis was not born at the time.

and we were happy. By the way, mother and dad were excellent cooks, so was our brother Armand, and he still is. He is considered to be a "Cordon Bleu", even better than the girls. On the weekend, we used extra time for extra cleaning inside and outside. Sunday of course, was the Lord's day and we drove to church three miles away summer and winter. This seemed to be just normal. I remember going by sleigh to visit friends, way down to Cork, on Sunday afternoons and coming back late in the evening.

Depression years and World War II were quite tough on everyone; sugar and gas were rationed, coupons were used to purchase such articles. Cooks provided food at a reasonable price. Mother started to make her own soda-crackers, her own chocolate and any candies possible. However, we must say that farmers and homesteaders were better off than any one in the city since they at least had something to eat from the farm such as meat, butter, cream, vegetables from the garden, wild berries, game, etc. and yet no money to provide for other needs, or to pay hospital bills; I remember that one year, there were seven admissions to the hospital and it was entirely impossible to make any deposits, although the collecting agents were after my parents. During those years, 1936 - 43, Laurent Robinson opened a Blacksmith shop in Lafond, which helped a bit.

In 1933 Mr. Edmond Robinson opened a store, in 1940 the business was sold to Mr. A. Lafreniere.

In 1939, Henry Hanson and later Leopold Lafreniere ran a garage business out of a part of the building and the rest was used for living quarters. It was closed down in 1948 and eventually torn down to make room for a residential lot, owned by Denis Gouin.

In 1943, a Credit Union was opened by the members of the community and made over a million dollars worth of business under the able management of Alphonse Malo.

All the above factors helped to facilitate local communications during the depression years. After the hard years, Joseph and Emma were able to have a more comfortable two-storey house built in 2 x 4. There were two bedrooms downstairs, a large kitchen, a cellar, upstairs there was plenty of room for us children to sleep. The house was plastered outside and painted inside; a decent cook stove was installed and a coal furnace for the winter. Although cheap, there was a linoleum on the kitchen floor, a sideboard entered the house, which provided room for the dishes. Dad bought his first car, a Whippet; all these purchases were classified as luxuries for the time being. There was also a very small garage built for the protection of the car, then a chicken-coop was built which allowed us to raise more chickens and turkeys.

As far as happy and humorous event are concerned, we can say that we met them every day and they are too numerous to count. We must admit that life on the farm was a challenge and was also a tragedy at times.

1. One day mother was helping on the farm, driving a harrow with several horses. She fell off and hurt a leg which never healed, she kept her infirmity all her life. When she died, she still had a wound on her leg.

2. In 1934, on a nice summer day, a fire was set on the Saddle Lake Reserve by the Indians. Within minutes the fire had reached a straw pile close to our pig pen. Father was away so mother and I (Simonne) rushed to the fire site where we found the pig, ready for sale all smothered with



Mr. Joseph Lapointe in his wheelchair, Mrs. Joseph Lapointe still able to walk with a cane. Roland Lafreniere, oldest grandson, pushing wheelchair, in 1965.

smoke. We managed to save the horses from the barn and the barn full of hay. Mother had a great confidence in Mother d'Youville so she had confided the house, the wood pile and the chicken coop to her care. When we came back to the house, the fire had stopped approximately three feet from it. Of course, all the neighbors rushed to our rescue but a distance of two or three miles takes time, and all the damage was done by the time they came in. Many unforgettable events did occur on the farm.

3. In all, ten children were born of Joseph and Emma, but due to the mother's health, the poor medical care, 4 boys and one girl died at birth or at an early age, while four girls and 1 boy survived. Midwives were available but they could not do the impossible.

4. It was also very difficult to get the necessary medications or to drive miles to see a doctor, so natural products were used for mild cases such as:

- a) peppermint herbs were used for colds or flu.
- b) mustard or linseed served as poultices, for pneumonia.
- c) rubbing the chest with vicks also brought relief.
- d) Vichy water and camomile for stomach or intestinal disorders.
- e) For infections, hot water soaks with salt proved effective.
- f) Goose or rabbit fat was good for burns.
- g) For earaches, any heated oil would serve the purpose.
- h) When someone had a sore throat, it would be painted with iodine or the person would be given a few drops of coal oil — gargle with salt and water would help; others wore a stocking all day, then wrapped it around the throat.
- i) For headache we generally applied cold compresses.
- j) Whitlow: compresses with hot bread and milk.
- k) When an ankle was sprained, a pork rind was applied.

l) Bruises: soak in cold water.

m) For people suffering of hemorrhoids, evergreen oak bark would be boiled then the person would sit frequently in that juice.

n) Spruce fir gum would replace the trident of today.

etc. etc. etc. etc

The surviving children of Joseph and Emma were:

1. Leonille: born September 9, 1909. She married
 - a) at Lafond on the 11-11-1932 to Elphege Lafreniere. Of that marriage, three boys were born: Roland, presently at Hobbema, Fernand, at Fort St. John, B.C. and Edmond of St. Albert, Alberta.
 - b) second marriage at St. Paul, Alberta, in January 1940 to Adrien Desaulniers a widower with 8 children. Of that marriage were born three girls and 1 boy: Yvonne of North Surrey, B.C. Therese, of St. Paul, Alberta. Louise of Millwood, Edmonton and Eugene of Edmonton. Leonille died on December 7, 1969 at the age of 60.
2. Yvonne: born September 30, 1912. She entered the Grey Nuns' Order in 1936 but because of her poor health, she returned home but never gave up. While caring for the dear parents, she worked a few years in St. Paul's hospital, then devoted herself for 39 years in the Edmonton General Hospital. She has always been the faithful servant and mother for all those in need. She has now retired, 4 years ago and her philosophy has not changed, although she underwent a serious surgery in 1976, she is still on the go to help wherever there is a need. I am sure she will survive all of us.
3. Simonne: born January 18, 1915 — took part of her education in Lafond then in St. Paul, Alberta. She entered the order of the Grey Nuns in August 1934 — pronounced her first vows in 1937 and made her last profession in 1940. She spent most of her life with the Indians in St. Albert, Blue Quills and 24 years in the Northwest Territories. She then devoted herself as a nurse in various hospitals in the West. She is now retired at the Grey Nuns' Regional Centre in Edmonton, which does not mean that she is idle but keeps busy with a variety of things useful to the public.
4. Germaine: born in Lafond on November 3, 1918. She also studied in Lafond and St. Paul. She entered the Grey Nuns at St. Albert in 1936 and pronounced her vows in 1939 and 1942. She taught most of her life to the Indians either in Alberta or in the Northwest Territories. In 1975, her health started to deteriorate so she was transferred back to Edmonton to be close to her doctor. She passed away on the 26 of October, 1976 at the age of 58.
5. The last but not the least is Armand, born in

Lafond on November 29, 1920. Working with dad for a number of years, he learned all the secrets of the farm and was ready to take over in 1946 when Joseph and Emma moved to the village of Lafond and later on to St. Paul. Armand was married on the 14 of October 1941 to Delia Goulet of Bonnyville. Nine children were born of their marriage but unfortunately 3 beautiful boys were still young when God called them back to Him; they now lie in the Lafond cemetery. There are 4 boys and 2 girls living. Maurice, Raymond and Guy are married and live in Prince George, B.C. Marie Claire, one of the twin girls is married and lives in Olds, Alberta. Marie Rose, married and lives in St. Paul. Denis still single, works in St. Paul.

Armand sold his farm 6 years ago and moved to Edmonton. He and Delia are both working and manage to enjoy life to the fullest. They now have 14 grandchildren. Armand could tell you a lot more about his own life which I am not aware of, being away for so long.

Our dear parents have left us. After retiring to St. Paul they were forced to be placed in a home, because their health was failing. In 1958 they celebrated their Golden Jubilee and in 1968 their Diamond Jubilee. Mother died on the 20th of March 1969 and father on the 25th of September 1970.

Our impressions of the life on the farm are numerous and varied. It was a life of quietness, peace and tranquility. People learned how to relax, how to create friendship. All were considered as a large family, helping each other, working together and sharing whenever needed. All would get together for stooking, threshing and hauling hay, etc. All this increased our education and formed us to be real citizens and Christians. We can also say that the wilderness was ideal for meditation; year round we could admire God's marvels in creation: "He gave us everything and maintains everything for his creatures". May He be blessed forever.

JIM LARAMIE

by Jim Laramie

I was born on Dad's homestead S.W. 24-58-10-W4 two miles north of Blue Quills School in 1923. I went to Belzil School.

On leaving school I worked at home; later, for farmers in St. Paul area. In 1959 I went to work at Moose Lake on a farm feedlot till 1963 when I started working for Provincial Grazing Reserves part time, and St. Paul Auction Mart part time. I started seasonal work with Provincial Grazing Reserves in 1965 as a spare rider. This meant constant moving from one reserve to another, which took me to Minburn, Buck Mountain, Jack Pine, and Rannach Reserves.



Jim Laramie at Minburn, 1967.

The winter '67-'68 I was Acting Manager at Minburn. The summer of '68 I homesteaded the Kleskun Lake reserve north east of Grand Prairie. I think homesteading is the proper term for the way we commenced operating. There was nothing but mosquitoes where Headquarters were to be. I had about 10 days to build pens for stock entry. I lived in and under my truck till they sent in a granary, a Deluxe model with a small window.

I had been promised a transfer to St. Paul for homesteading this mosquito-laden hell-hole, but St. Paul wasn't ready in '69, so I was granted all the privileges I had enjoyed the summer before and homesteaded in the Thorhild Grazing Reserve. The granary there, was a used model. On a clear night I could count a few stars through the roof.

I transferred to St. Paul for the 1970 season. Things were looking up. The main corrals were already built, along with a cottage and small barn. After four summers here, the Master Minds in government were still of the opinion that a mere existence was all that reserve workers had coming, so after six years as Pasture Manager I resigned. (And wages more than doubled in the next year and a half).

In January 1974 I moved here on S.E. 16-56-9-W4. I still ride the Grazing Reserve part time. I have the "Greatest Neighbours" in the world, and living the most pleasant years I've known, although I'm in the evening of life and the END is now in sight. The END is the day I can't straddle and handle even a broke horse. Will it be ten years? five? three? or tomorrow? Well, as the man said, "Growing old is mostly a matter of mind. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter."



Fall Round-up at St. Paul — 1977.

Mostly, I've lived like a lone wolf, but, at times like a king. After nearly sixty years of it, I finally agree with the one who said: "All is Vanity."

PAT AND ROSE LASCHUK

Rose Linkiewich, daughter of Emil and Annie (nee Marko) Linkiewich was born November 28th, 1951.

Before her third birthday, Rose's father Emil passed. She was raised by her mother and "babka."

Rose attended school in St. Paul. After she graduated from Racette School in St. Paul, she attended the University of Alberta in Edmonton. Rose received her Bachelor of Education in 1975. She was employed by the Edmonton Separate School Board for 5 years in the Ukrainian Bilingual Program.

In 1978, Rose married Patrick Laschuk. Patrick Laschuk was born March 15th, 1949 in Vilna, Alberta. He is the son of William and Emily (nee Kurylo) Laschuk.

After their marriage, Pat and Rose moved to St. Paul. They have started to build a home on her grandfathers N.W. 22-56-9-4 homestead. One of the original log granaries still remains on the site in fairly good condition.



Pat and Rose Laschuk pose in front of their home. It is built on the land her grandfather first cleared when he came to Canada. The log granary built about forty years ago is still being used.

Pat is employed by Alberta Transportation and Rose is employed by the Town School Boards as a substitute teacher.

ADELINE LASICHUK

by Lorraine Harries

Adeline Lasichuk was born in 1945 to Tom & Jean (nee Hawreluk) Lasichuk.

Adeline was very young when they left Lac Bellevue. While in Lac La Biche, she was raised on goats milk. She was very healthy and never got a cold. By the age of ten, Adeline was a lot of help to her mother when they kept the boarders in a rooming house.

Adeline started school in Coaldale and then she went to school in Lethbridge where she finished grade twelve. She went to Junior College for one year, where she took office training and went to work in an office.

Adeline got married to Dieter, Echart, Van Chorus, on April 17, 1965. They first settled in Lethbridge. In August of 1965, they moved to Burnaby B.C. and later moved to Port Coquitlam B.C. On June 6, 1975 their daughter Jeanne Marie arrived. They still reside in Port Coquitlam, B.C.



Adeline Lasichuk, 1950.

HILDA LASICHUK

by Hilda Bartlett

On Sept. 5, 1937, Hilda Lasichuk was born to Tom and Jean (nee Hawreluk) Lasichuk.

Hilda started school in Henley in the Lac Bellevue area. Then she went to school in Lac La Biche, Barnwell, Taber, Coaldale and then Hamilton Jr. High where she finished grade 9 and then went to work.

On December 6, 1958, Hilda married Vernon LeRoy Bartlett. They settled in Lethbridge. On Aug. 9, 1959, their first daughter was born, Jacqueline Lynn. On March 14, 1961 their second daughter was born, Wendy Diane. In 1972, Hilda and Vernon and the girls moved to Calgary, Alberta. Then on June 1, 1964, their son was born, Kenneth Brent. In 1966, Vernon separated and Hilda moved back to Jean's her mother, to look after her and Hilda's grandmother. After her



Lorraine and Hilda Lasichuk in front of their first home in Lake Eliza (1941).

mother's and grandmother's deaths, Hilda moved to Port Coquitlam, B.C. where she presently resides.

LORRAINE LASICHUK

by Lorraine Harries

Lorraine Ada Lasichuk was born to Tom and Jean (nee Hawreluk) Lasichuk.

Some of the early events Lorraine recalls when they lived in Lac Bellevue were: The Proskiws had a caboose with a heater in it and they used to pick her up for school during the cold winter months.



Lorraine Lasichuk (baby) and mother Jean — 1935.

In the summer months, they walked to Henley School. Many times the children used to spend hours picking saskatoons, wild strawberries and blueberries. Money was scarce and you had to live off the land.

While attending school at Henley her mother had given her an orange for lunch. In those days the children used to pile their lunch pails around the heater to make the bread nice and warm. Lorraine at lunch time, discovered she had cooked her orange. It tasted awful. She cried all afternoon. It was a rare thing to have an orange.

On July 12, picnics were a thrill.

Katie and John Trach got married and Jean Lasichuk (Lorraine's mother) made Katie's wedding gown. There was so much food and good things to eat.

Christmas Concerts at Lac Bellevue were memorable. Lorraine remembers many of the girls and mothers would attempt to put rags in their hair the night before. Often the curly hair looked much worse than the straight, it struck out like antennas. The teachers would try to make it lay flat by putting water in it.

Lorraine started school at Henley. After three years at Henley, she attended Lac La Biche, Barnwell, Taber, and Coaldale School. She finished grade 10, then went to work in a bank at Lethbridge before getting married.

Lorraine married (John) Jack Owen Harries. They moved to Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. A year later, they moved to British Columbia. After several moves with the Company he worked for, they settled in North Burnaby, B.C. One July 15, 1955 their first daughter Diane Sheryl was born. On August 15, 1957 their second daughter Shannon, Arlene was born. On September 16, Thomas Dwayne their first son was born. On November 1, 1968 their last son was born, Robert John.

In 1972, Lorraine and Jack sold their Burnaby home and moved to Paul Lake in the Kamloops area, where they still reside.

In 1973, Lorraine and Jack's first daughter Diane married Clark Edward Bradbury. In 1973, their first son was born. In 1975 their second son was born. They are now living in Port Coquitlam.

NICK AND ANNE LASICHUK

by Lorraine Harries

Nick Lasichuk was born in 1886 in Wolchkecie, Poland to Mr. and Mrs. Tom Lasichuk. He married Anne Krankowski, daughter of John and Rosalli Krankowski. Anne was born in 1884 in Wolchkecie, Sniatyn, Poland.

On August 19, 1912, they had a son which they called Thomas after his grandfather.

In approximately 1913, Nick Lasichuk came to



Family picture. Front row: Annie and Nick Lasichuk, Pete Tymofichuk, Helen Tymofichuk, John Krankowski, Tom and Jean Lasichuk. Back row: children Lorraine, Raymond and Hilda Lasichuk.

Canada leaving his wife Anne and son Tom in Poland with his father Tom.

In 1923, Anne and her son Tom came to Canada with Anne's sister Helen Tymofichuk and her two children, Nick and Rose. Anne and Helen's father, John Krankowski, also came with them. Helen's husband, Peter Tymofichuk, followed a while later.

Nick and Anne Lasichuk were reunited and started to homestead in the Lac Bellevue area, on the N.E. 28-55-9-W4. They spent hours clearing the land and building their home out of logs. The roof was thatched out of rye bundles. The inside and outside of the house was plastered with mud mixed with straw. This mixture was made by working the clay, straw and water in a pit with bare feet. The floor was a hard finish of clay. The inside walls were always white washed. They also, later built, a barn and chicken coop out of logs.

Nick had a still going in the house and made his own moonshine. One day, the still exploded and got Anne in the back. She spent the next three days in the creek trying to relieve the stinging. That was the end of Nick's moonshine days.

Their son Tom married Jean Hawreluk (daughter of Fred and Katie Hawreluk) on February 15, 1933.

Nick and Anne worked very hard and in approximately 1939 built a larger home which today



Nick and Annie Lasichuk 1942.



Anne Lasichuk 1947.

still exists (Adeline Krankowski's residence). In those days, there wasn't such a thing as stucco wire, so instead they bought pounds and pounds of shingle nails. These nails were hammered into the logs one inch apart and flattened down. This made a bond for stucco which Anne applied and made to a smooth finish with her bare hands. Anne's dad, John Krankowski, was living with Nick and Anne at the time. He too, would sit on a chair and help with the shingle nails.

Nick was a hot tempered man and loved his beer and spirits. He would go into town and get pie-eyed and the horses would always bring him home. Anne would sit home fuming and would be most upset. He finally would arrive home drunk. He would almost always be unconscious and she would say to him "Freeze you son of a b----!!!" By the time she would unhitch the horses and cool down, she would put a feather quilt over him and he would sleep in the wagon until morning.

Through out the years, Anne was the midwife for many of the children born in the area. She was a very well liked and dramatic woman. She was a great and expressive story teller. She would actually act out her stories.

In 1944, Nick Lasichuk got ill. His son Tom took him to Vegreville hospital to undergo tests. He passed away in the hospital a few days later with a heart attack. Nick's body was brought back home and he was buried in the Lac Bellevue cemetery.

Anne then asked Tom and his family to move in with her. The house that Anne and Nick built was much larger than the one Tom and his family lived in. She continued to live with Tom and his family when they moved to Lac La Biche in 1946.

They all moved to Southern Alberta in 1947, and lived in Barnwell and various other towns until 1952 when she married George Nikoriuk and they made their home in Hairy Hill, where George had a small house.

Their son Tom, passed away with a heart attack May 1, 1963 at Lethbridge, Alberta.

In 1964, Anne got ill due to Tom's death. She was unable to look after herself and moved in with her daughter-in-law Jean. Jean died from cancer June 8, 1968. Anne went into a deep depression



Nick Lasichuks funeral 1945.
The funeral was held at Nicks
home.

and after a short illness passed away in May of 1969. She was buried in Lethbridge with Tom and Jean.

RAYMOND LASICHUK

by Hilda Bartlett

On May 31, 1939, Raymond Lasichuk was born to Tim and Jean (nee Hawreluk) Lasichuk.

Raymond, when about two years old, had a lovely police dog called Rex that followed him everywhere. They were inseparable.

When the family moved to Lac La Biche, the dog was unable to come, so he was given to a cousin many miles away. The dog returned to the house that they left and died probably of a lonely heart.

Raymond was a very stubborn young lad. If he set his mind to do something, he would do it even if he got a good strapping or scolding. Tom, his dad would go to a neighbor and Ray would follow half a mile behind. Many times his Mother had to look for him. One day when he was five years old he was left in the house for a few minutes while his mother and Grandmother did the chores. Annie, his Grandmother, saw flames in the window. Ray had decided to light a candle and set it on the window sill and it set the curtains on fire. He ran away and it wasn't till noon that they found him. While haying, Raymond loved to catch snakes and tease his sisters.

Raymond went to first grade at Henley School, then the family moved to Lac La Biche, Barnwell, Taber, Coaldale, and he completed grade ten at Hamilton Junior high school.

Raymond went to work at Enerson Motors, then he went to work for Sand Mountain plumbing where he took his plumbing training and got his ticket for plumbing and gas fitting. Raymond then started a business of his own.

On October 8, 1960, Raymond married Beverly Ann Wilson. They settled in Lethbridge till 1965 when they moved to Burnaby, B.C. On August 23, 1965 their first daughter Shelley Ann was born. On December 13, 1969 their son Vincent Thomas was born. And on May 22, 1972 their second daughter Roxanne Shirley was born. On June 5, 1976 their last daughter was born, Gayle Kathleen.

Raymond and his family are now living in Port Coquitlam, B.C. and Raymond has a very good plumbing business in operation.



Raymond Lasichuk and his dog
Rex, 1941.

TOM AND JEAN LASICHUK

by Hilda Bartlett

Tom Lasichuk was born August 19, 1912 to Nick and Annie (nee Krankowski) Lasichuk in Poland.

In 1923 he immigrated to Canada with his Mother Annie Helen Tymofichuk (Annie's sister) and her two children, Nick and Rosie and John Krankowski, (Annie and Helen's father).

He went to Lake Eliza school for a few years while living with his Uncle Frank and family while his mother and father were clearing the homestead. When the family home was built, he transferred to Henley school.

In 1933 he married Jean Hawreluk, daughter of Fred and Katie Hawreluk.

Jean was born in Lake Eliza on December 11, 1915.

Tom and Jean also started a homestead S.W. 26-55-9-W4 in the Lac Bellevue area. The house they built themselves was also made of logs with a thatched roof. This home had two rooms, rough wood floors and white washed walls to make it look bright and clean. Tom got Jean a new wood burning stove which she was so proud of.

The family grew.

August 20, 1935, Lorraine Ada was born.

September 5, 1937, their second daughter Hilda was born.

May 31, 1939, their son Raymond was born.

For the birth on these three children, Annie Lasichuk, Tom's mother, was the midwife. She also helped look after the children while Jean got her strength back.

During the fall and winter months, Tom went around cutting wood for neighbors. He was mechanically inclined and built a circular saw and motor out of scrap for the purpose.



Tom and Lorraine and Jean Lasichuk in front of their home. 1936.

In 1942, Tom went to work at Fraser mills in Vancouver. Tom worked at the mill until spring and came home to put the crops in.

In 1944, after Nick Lasichuk, Tom's father's death, Tom and Jean and the three children moved to Nick and Annie's place.

In 1945, their fourth child, Adeline was born.

In the fall of 1945, Tom got itchy feet and wanted to move to make more money. He decided to move to Lac La Biche and go into the mink ranching business. Joe and Rosie Tatocky were already there with Joe's father. Tom, much to his mothers disappointment, had an auction sale for the animals, farm equipment and several household items, that he was not able to take with them. One thing that Annie had was a huge brass bed and she used to polish it with Bon Ami. She always had huge pillows and a fancy embroidered bed spread. She was sorry to have to sell it.

Tom rented the farms to Billy Krankowski. Later Billy purchased the farm.

With the fifteen hundred dollars, Tom bought a half ton truck and the family moved to Lac La Biche where they set up Mink farming.

Their diet consisted of a lot of fish which was prepared various ways. The children soon became tired of fish, but one way they liked it was ground and made into fish burgers. The occasional whitefish was caught and it was a real delicacy. The fish caught was put in a grinder, mixed with ground grain and fed to the mink.



Tom Lasichuk and his pet mink in Lac La Biche. 1945.



Tom and Jean Lasichuk 25th Anniversary in 1958.

An ice house was used for storing and freezing the fish. That year the fish died off at Lac La Biche and horse meat was substituted for fish, thus causing a great strain on the budget. Things progressively got worse, Mink pelts went down drastically in price.

In the fall of 1947, they moved to Barnwell in southern Alberta to work in the sugar beet fields. It was back breaking work but Tom had a growing family to support.

In 1948, Tom and his family moved to Taber and there he rented a mixed farm. On the farm he grew corn, sugar beets, cucumbers, carrots and red beets. All the produce picked during the day was transported to Bick's Pickle factory for processing and canning.

In 1950, Tom and his family moved to Coaldale. There they weeded sugar beets. In the winter, Tom went out on construction jobs and stayed with it throughout the year.

In 1952, Tom's mother, Annie married George Nikariuk from Hairy Hill and moved to live there.

In 1953, Tom and Jean bought a three storey rooming house in Lethbridge. Tom worked at Enerson Motors for seven years. Money was a little easier to come by. They were able to purchase a new car.

In 1960, Tom learned he had to find a lighter job because of a heart condition. He worked for the school board as a maintenance man.

Then on May 1, 1963, Tom in his early 50's passed away suddenly with a heart attack.

Annie, Tom's mother, became ill after Tom's death and Jean took her in because she wasn't able to care for herself.

In 1966, Jean herself got very ill with cancer of

the bowel. Hilda, Jean's second oldest daughter and family came from Calgary to live with Jean and Annie, Tom's mother, to look after them.

Jean sold her house and bought a small house in north Lethbridge. She didn't live there much because the last six months were spent in the hospital where she finally died on June 8, 1968.

In the spring of 1969, Annie, Tom's mother, too passed away after a short illness.

PIERRE AND ROSE ANNA LAVENTURE (LEFEBVRE)

by Emile Lefebvre

Pierre and Rose Anna Laventure came from Shawinigan Falls, Quebec, in approximately 1918. They bought Napoleon Malo's farm, namely S.W. 5-57-10-4. They lived there for about 31 years, then moved to St. Paul in 1950.

Mrs. Laventure already had relatives in the West.

They had no children of their own but took care of their nephew, Ronald Doyon as if he had been their own son. Ronald Doyon married Germaine Poirier. They had six children. They lived in Lafond for quite a few years, then moved to St. Paul and then to Calgary, Alberta where they spent their last working days.

Mr. Laventure passed away in September 1953. Mrs. Laventure passed away in 1959.



Mr. Pierre Laventure and his wife Rose Anna (nee Lefebvre) daughter of Elie Lefebvre and Clare Anna Nault.

THE DAN LAVERTY FAMILY

by Sister St. Bride (Sarah Laverty)

Dan and Sarah Laverty immigrated to Canada in 1928, arriving in St. Bride's in May of that year.

The primary reason for their coming to Canada was Dan's health. For many years he had been a severe asthmatic, and was advised by the family doctor to move to a drier climate, so they decided to leave County Antrim in Ireland where they were both born and raised and come to Canada.

They had three children, all of whom were born in Ireland. They were Elizabeth, Charlie and Sarah. Elizabeth, the eldest married Donald MacMillan. They lived on the farm in St. Bride's for several years, before moving to Vancouver where Donald passed away. Five years later, Elizabeth was re-married to Don Gillespie and they are now living in New Westminster B.C.

Charlie remained on the farm until 1960, when he and his mother moved to Vancouver and later to New Westminster, B.C., where Charlie owned and operated a small confectionary store until he retired and now lives in Killam, Alberta.

Sarah, the youngest, entered the Sisters of St. Joseph and is now known as Sister St. Bride and is presently nursing at the General Hospital in Killam.

Dan Laverty died in 1937 only ten years after coming to Canada and Mrs. Laverty and the family remained on the farm until 1960 when she and Charlie moved to Vancouver. Mrs. Laverty became ill and was brought to the Auxiliary Hospital in



L to R: Sarah Laverty, her daughter, Sister St. Bride, Louise Ferris taken in 1963.

Killam, where she is presently a patient.

Those early years were difficult ones, total strangers in a new country. However, the long winters were passed visiting our good neighbors. House parties, card games and home dances kept and formed many friendships which lasted for many years. Those early settlers had a strong faith and a joyful out-look on life. There were many tales of by-gone days when 'We were back home'.

There were many humorous incidents happened those days, one which stands out in my mind.

It seems that one particular night, a group of the neighbors gathered at Robert Logue's to play cards for turkeys. These turkeys were housed in a small house, not too far from the farm home. The local boys, (sons of the card players), decided that they would have some fun. So having waited until the card game was well in progress, they then paid a visit to the turkey house. About 3 a.m. the game was over and the winners went out to claim their winnings, led by the owner carrying a lantern. When the door was opened, to their amazement, the turkey house was empty! The loud accusations demonstrated the surprise and the disbelief of the card sharks — accusing the owner of deception, all in good part of course. After a night or two, the turkeys returned as mysteriously as they had disappeared, and Mr. Logue's honesty was vindicated.



Gertrude, Leonard, Dan and Sarah Laverty taken in 1936.

ALPHONSE LAVOIE

by Alphonse Lavoie

I was born on May 12, 1913 in Lafond, Alberta the fourth child of Auguste and Diane Lavoie. I lived and worked with the family until 1934. I went to Cartier School until I was 13. The family moved and I went to Vimy School for one year, to Lac La Biche Mission Convent for one year, to St. Francis School in Edmonton for three years and one year in St. Anthony's College, North Edmonton, 66st 128 Ave.

In winter of 1934, I bought the S.W. 8-59-9 with 100 acres of land under cultivation, from the estate of Senator P. Lessard. This quarter had been homesteaded by Luc Bouchard, seven miles North of St. Paul. In the spring, I moved there with some horses and cattle, bought some machinery and started farming on my own.

On May 9, 1939, I married Laurette, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lucien Desaulniers of Lafond.

On May 30, 1940, our first boy Benoit was born. On September 4, 1942, a second boy Lionel. On August 16, 1943, a third boy, Fernand.

In 1942, I had 150 acres in cultivation on the S.W. 8 and I bought the W 1/2-31-58-9 with 125 acres in cultivation. The N.W. quarter had been homesteaded by Mr. Louis Rivey and the N.E. quarter by Mrs. Johnson. In 1944 we moved in Mr. Rivey's house.

In 1948, I built a new house and we still live there.



The Alphonse Lavoie Family, Taken 1961. Standing: Benoit, Alphonse (father) Lionel. Front Row: Fernand, Suzanne, Laurette (mother) Diane.



Alphonse Lavoie's first house and his land N.W. 8-59-9-2, Model T Ford Truck and a pile of firewood. Taken 1938.

On August 27, 1949 our first girl, Diane was born and on August 17, 1953 our last child Suzanne.

In 1962 I bought another quarter of land. In the summer, Diane had rheumatic fever until 1946. She had heart surgery and on July 23, 1966 passed away. She was laid to rest in the St. Paul Roman Catholic Cemetery.

On October 9, 1965 Benoit married Miss Cecile Bisson. They have two boys and one girl; Marcel, Bernard and Lucie. They lived on a farm north of St. Paul.

On November 30, 1968, Fernand married Lorraine Poirier. They have two boys and one girl; Raymond, Roxanne and Laurier. Raymond the first boy passed away when only a few months old. They live in Edmonton.

On March 13, 1969 Lionel married Barbara Roschusch. They have one boy Lee. They live with us.

Suzanne, still single, works in banks. In 1971, she started with the Bank of Commerce and in 1972 was transferred to Yellowknife, N.W.T., in 1974 to Grande Prairie where she lives.

To this day my wife and I are semi-retired on our farm, and enjoy travelling, fishing in nearby St. Vincent Lake and also do some hunting in our immediate surroundings.



On this picture is the barns on the land of Alphonse Lavoie. The back ground is the open land of that farm. Taken in 1938.

AUGUSTE AND DIANA LAVOIE

Auguste was born June 6, 1883 to Pascal and Marie (nee Villeneuve) of Roberval, Quebec. He had two brothers: Andre and Hector and five sisters: Artemise, Mathilde, Marie-Joseph, Josephine and Maria.

As he grew to adulthood, he took a fancy to Diana Parent, born Jan. 23, 1889 to Charles and Marie Parent of St. Prime, Quebec. On Feb. 5, 1906, Auguste and Diana were married in Roberval Catholic Church. Two other couples pronounced their vows in the same ceremony: Auguste's sister Artemise and Euchariste Tremblay and Francois Parent and Luce Bouchard.

Auguste and Diana lived with his parents until late fall. Then they decided to come west to Alberta, where there was land to be had for \$10.00 for a quarter section, 160 acres. They came to Edmonton and then on to Lamoureux, 20 miles from Edmonton where they had cousins, Napoleon and Clara Auclair (nee Villeneuve) who were homesteading there. Napoleon Auclair was a well established farmer. He also had a cheese factory, which served the early settlers. Auguste and Diana had now work and a place to live. They worked for Napoleon Auclair all that winter.

One day Auguste spotted two fox, a silver one and a black one. In the evening he set traps, for fox were worth a lot of money. A neighbor had also seen them and set traps, catching the black one, worth about \$1000. Auguste had hoped to get the black one but still was quite happy with the silver one he caught. It was a fine day's work.

In the course of the winter, Auguste and Diana met a young married couple, Eugene and Eva Lamoureux, who were farming close by. In the spring of 1907, after spring work, Auguste and Eugene decided to go looking for homesteads. They went to Edmonton, boarded a train that took them to Vegreville, then took the stage, a horse drawn, two seater light wagon, that took them to Lafond. They each found a quarter section that they liked, 2 miles apart, in the Cartier District. They went back to Edmonton to file their homesteads. This was Auguste's first opportunity to have some land of his own. The men went back to Lamoureux, Eugene to his farm, Auguste to work for some farmers, to earn money to develop their homesteads, as required by the Homestead Act.

While the men were away, Diana had stayed with Eva, Mrs. Eugene Lamoureux. In February, 1908, Eva gave birth to a son, Narcisse. Diana cared for mother and baby and did the cooking and other housework. On May 27, 1908, Diana also gave birth to her first son, Hubert. By spring, Auguste and Diana had saved enough money to buy two horses, a wagon and a cow, so they left for the homestead.

Since there were no buildings as yet, the family spent the summer in a little shack belonging to



Wedding Picture of Mr. and Mrs. Auguste Lavoie, Feb. 5, 1906.

Alphonse Foisy, 8 miles from their homestead. Auguste traveled with the team and wagon to go to work on his land. While Auguste was away. Camilla Foisy, Alphonse Foisy's daughter, stayed with Diana. Camilla Foisy soon afterwards married Emile Malo and homesteaded in the Lafond District.

In the fall of 1908, Auguste and Diana moved to their home, a 2-room log shack. A log barn had also been built, both had sod roofs. This first home meant so much to Diana. She often said it was one of the most precious things she ever had: at last, a home of her own.

By now, there were several settlers around, mostly bachelors. Diana baked bread for them, for the fabulous sum of \$1.00 for every hundred pounds of flour that she used.

For entertainment, they had house parties where Auguste would play his violin, a thing he did very well. He even played for Donat Noel's wedding and many others. Often at the house parties, there weren't enough ladies, so some men would volunteer to replace the missing girls especially in square dancing. To identify them, a ribbon was tied to each man's arm, and so the dance could go on.

Opportunities to earn extra money were scarce. One way was to do some freighting with horses and wagons or sleighs. Men would go from Lafond



Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Tremblay, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Billo, Mr. and Mrs. Alphonse Lavoie, Mr. and Mrs. Real Lavoie, Mr. and Mrs. Damase Lavoie, Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Lavoie, June 18, 1952.

to Vegreville load up and then back to St. Paul. It took from 3 to 4 days for one trip. Many men earned an extra dollar this way until in October, 1920 the C.N.R. trains began coming to St. Paul from Edmonton. From then on grain and livestock were sold locally.

In 1912, Auguste built a new house with hewed logs. Mr. Joseph Laflamme who was very good with the broad-axe hewed the logs and with his son, Philippe helped to build it. This house is still in use, as a shed, on the farm, where Damase Lavoie lives.

In January, 1922, Auguste and Diana had their first tragedy. Their son, Simon, was rushed, with a team and cutter, to the Vegreville Hospital with a ruptured appendix. It took 5½ hours to make the trip, but evidently, it was too long a time, for a few days later, Simon passed away, January 23, 1922. Auguste came home with his son in a coffin, to be buried in the Lafond Cemetery.

In November, 1922, the same year, tragedy struck once more. Auguste passed away, after a short illness, only 39 years of age. He died at home, about 3:00 a.m. He too was laid to rest in the Lafond Cemetery.

Diana was left with six children: Hubert, the oldest, was only 14 years old. Marguerite was 10, Alphonse 9, Real 4, Damase 2 and Victor 8 months old. The children were very young to do all the chores and the farm work. Hubert, with kind neighbors and some hired help, kept the farm going so Diana could care for her family.

During the summer of 1924, Diana with Marguerite and Victor took a well deserved holiday, going back to Roberval and St. Prime, Quebec.

On the return trip, they were accompanied by Mr. Joseph Tremblay, an uncle of the family, by a previous marriage to Maria Lavoie (deceased) one of Auguste's sisters.

In the fall of 1925, Diana and Joseph Tremblay were married. The uncle now became the stepfather.

That same fall Diana's uncle, Thomas Parent,

who had homesteaded in Vimy, 40 miles north of Edmonton, came to visit the family. He convinced them that Vimy really needed a hotel and that it would be a good business. Joe and Diana decided to buy the lot and build the hotel.

In the spring of 1926, Hubert and Alphonse left for Vimy with their stepfather. They brought 4 horses and 2 wagons loaded with feed, tools and a grub box. They had to get lumber 20 miles from Vimy. It took 3 days for 1 trip. The rock and gravel had to be hauled as far as 9 miles. At the end of June, the building was almost all finished. Joseph came back to Lafond, had an auction sale and moved the whole family to Vimy. The family lived there for some time but Diana didn't like that kind of life, even if business was good. The hotel was sold and the family moved to Edmonton. Hubert went to work on his own, Diana and Joseph went to Vancouver for the winter, the rest of the family went to the Lac La Biche Mission convent, 8 miles west of Lac La Biche. When Joseph and Diana returned to Edmonton they bought a 3 bedroom house and 3 lots for \$500. What a difference with 1981.

Hubert and Joseph worked together in construction, which took them to St. Paul to help build the cathedral.

August 27, 1929, a daughter, Rose, was born to Joseph and Diana.

In February 1931, the family returned to their farm that had been rented to Philippe Couillard.

The following summer, 22 cows and a horse were bought at an auction sale for \$200.

In 1933, Hubert bought half a section from Joe Beauregard, the homestead of Mr. Peter Brunelle. The family and Hubert worked together with the same machines.

On Feb. 3, 1933, another daughter, Yvonne, was born to Diana and Joseph.

In the fall of 1933, Diana let her kitchen be used as a classroom until the second classroom of Cartier School was completed.

In 1945, Diana and Joseph retired in St. Paul. Joseph Tremblay passed away on September 2, 1964 at the age of 83. He was buried in the St. Paul Cemetery.



Mrs. Auguste Lavoie, Mr. Joseph Locke, Hubert Lavoie. Picture taken in 1922, on the steps of Mr. Locke's funeral home. Mr. Locke homesteaded in 1909 near Parkinson's, then had the first funeral home in St. Paul.

Diana passed away on January 29, 1968, at the age of 79. She also was buried in the St. Paul Cemetery. Hubert passed away on June 25, 1968 at the age of 60. Hubert's son, Ronald also passed away Dec. 18, 1968.

Diana and Auguste had 6 children:

Hubert married Marie Ange Trudel. They had 2 boys: Ronald and Norman and a chosen daughter, Dolores.

Marguerite married Louis Billo. They had 5 boys: Simon, Leo, Hubert, Emile, Jack and 2 girls, Roma, Claudette. Marguerite is retired in St. Paul.

Alphonse married Laurette Desaulniers. They had 3 boys: Benoit, Lionel, Fernand and 2 girls Diane and Susan. Alphonse and Laurette are retired on their farm.

Real married Helen Bodnar. They have 3 boys: Harvey, Thomas, David. Real and Helen and David live in St. Paul.

Damas married Alma Rose Parent. They had one son, Pierre, and one daughter, Therese. They live on the farm in the Cartier District.

Victor married Ann Hadayk. They have 3 sons: Michel, Denis, Guy and one daughter, Mona. Victor and Ann live in St. Paul.

Joseph and Diana Tremblay's children are:

Rose married Remi Audette. They have 2 daughters: Joanne and Doris and one son Remi. They live in Port Alberni, B.C.

Yvonne married Robert Sandboe. They have 2 girls: Diane and Valerie, and one son, Gerald. They live in St. Paul, Alberta.

DAMAS LAVOIE



Wedding picture of Mr. and Mrs. Damas Lavoie, September 14, 1950, at St. Prime, Lac St. Jean, Quebec.



25th Wedding Anniversary, Mr. and Mrs. Damas Lavoie L-R: Therese, Mrs. Lavoie, Damas, Pierre. September 14, 1975.



The Damas Family L-R: Mr. and Mrs. Lavoie, Pierre, Therese. Taken February 1981.

HUBERT LAVOIE AND FAMILY

by Marie Ange (Trudel) Lavoie

Hubert Lavoie and Marie Ange Trudel were married in Calgary, on Aug. 7, 1935. They farmed in Lafond from 1935-1961, when they sold out to Andre Malo and moved to St. Paul.

Hubert, was the eldest son, of Auguste Lavoie and Diana Parent. He was born in Lamoureux, May 27, 1980, and died in the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton, June 25, 1968, after 5 months of intense suffering from bone cancer.

Hubert was only 40 days old when the family moved to their Lafond homestead. He grew up



Cartier School pupils 1933-1935. Marie Ange (Trudel) Lavoie — Celestine (Robin) Grenier, teachers then.

there, and attended school at Cartier. His father died when he was only 14, so he had to quit school to help his mother out with the six other children. Along with Alphonse, the next oldest, they took over the farm chores and with a little outside help, now and again, they managed quite well.

The night their father died, the family was alone. The two, Alphonse and Hubert, that cold November night at 3 o'clock walked over 2 miles to Mr. Eugene Lamoureux's place to get assistance, also to prepare the body for the wake and burial. It was the only way these things could be done at the time.

From then on, Alphonse and Hubert became inseparable and together they did the best they could under the circumstances. The two, were avid duck and rabbit hunters, both for pleasure and for a meat supplement for the struggling family of eight. Mom Lavoie was a super cook and managed in turning out great, tasty meals, with yet, very little.

Mrs. Lavoie then was remarried to Joseph Tremblay, a carpenter by trade. They decided to try their luck at building a hotel in Vimy. To Vimy, Hubert and Alphonse immediately went, driving with horses to get there. It was a five day trek, camping out under the stars on their way. From Vimy they travelled to Westlock some 30 miles away. It took many trips to cut and haul logs to the sawmill to bring back the lumber necessary to build the hotel. There are no stones on Vimy lands, so they had to haul gravel and stones from several miles away.

They operated the business for only a few years and sold out. They returned to their Lafond farm, that had been rented to Philippe Couillard in the meantime. All the work Hubert and Alphonse had put into this endeavor in unbelievable, but true! They were both so young.

It was at this time that Hubert decided to go out on his own, at 18 years of age. He had obtained a

homestead in the McLennan district. Again with Alphonse they started out in an old Model T Ford to go and explore the region. After a thorough inspection of the homestead, they found it to be mostly muskeg and would not be a very valuable property. The project was abandoned right there.

After this experience, Hubert went to Edmonton where he became employed for a few years by the Durocher Construction Company. One winter, along with Hervé Malo, they took a barber's course. After attempting that work for a while he concluded the occupation was not for him. He returned to the Lafond farm. In the fall, he would go out on threshing crews in Saskatchewan.

He travelled by car to Quebec with his mother and step-father on two occasions. Upon their return, Alphonse had bought a farm and Hubert pitched in to help his brother with whom he had gone through so many hardships.

Then the final decision came. With some help from his mother and step-father, Hubert bought the Josephat Toutant, Beauregard farm 1 mile north of Lafond by Cyr Lake commonly known as Brunelle Lake.

The Brunelle brothers had developed the homestead that became Hubert Lavoie's farm. Then on this property they built the first large frame house in the region. It was considered then, to be a masterpiece, a real mansion, compared to the log, dirt floor cabins around.

Francis Fortin, a soldier, through the Soldier Settlement Board bought this place in 1919. He was in possession for only a year or so and died. Then, this place was again sold to Josephat Toutant, Beauregard (he had changed his name previously) through the Soldier Settlement Board, in 1920 Mr. Beauregard in 1933, resold this farm to Hubert Lavoie.

A large barn was also erected to accommodate some fifty horses, for the hundred of freighters who



Standing by Cyr Lake, Brunelle Lake Mr. and Mrs. Rosaire Trudel and daughters Blanche Simonin, Marie Ange Trudel Lavoie and husband Hubert, with baby Ronald.



Hubert Lavoie with his three children L — R: Norman, Dolores and Ronald.

travelled through, from St. Paul, Therien and points north on their way to Vegreville and brought back the basic food and clothing needs for their families. Sometimes when the trading was good, little extras as candies, fruits and such were brought back for a pleasant surprise indeed! The trip took many days through rough roads or trails, in all kinds of weather, rain, snow or shine.

Hubert's place had been known in the past as the Halfway House, or Stopping Place. Several times the children of some of these freighters stopped to visit and chat with us about the place at which their grandfathers or fathers had so often stopped, for food, shelter and rest for themselves, and their horses. On one occasion, one of them related how one of his grandfather's horses had died in the barn one night from over exhaustion. Sometimes the cold was so severe that the horses' noses would bleed.

The youth of today listen in amazement at all the accomplishments, despite untold difficulties those early settlers endured or went through. Some even do not believe these facts to be possible — so different to the modern comfortable living of today.

Going back to Hubert's life he worked at the Brosseau Chemical Plant for a short time, then went on as carpenter on the C.N.R. — Band B gang and

was at this work for 12 years.

Marie Ange taught school and with the extra earning, they managed to renovate the house little by little, in and out. Electricity, propane heating and stove, running hot and cold water and all the facilities possible at the time. They lived happily there till it was sold to Andre Malo in 1961, who in turn after a few years built a lovely modern home and a new barn.

Though the home which had been a refuge to so many is now demolished, the memories and souvenirs will never fade away. It will remain a landmark for many old timers, near and far.

Marie Ange Lavoie was born in Grandmere, Quebec. She is the youngest daughter of Rosaire Trudel and Alma Roy's family of 13. The Trudels, Marie Ange's parents, lived with Hubert and Marie Ange for many years. They would come in the spring and return to Calgary to their other daughter, Mrs. George Simonin, for the winter. Mr. and Mrs. Trudel were of great assistance to Hubert and Marie Ange. Rosaire died in Lafond Nov. 22, 1946. His remains lie in the Lafond cemetery. Mrs. Trudel died Jan. 3, 1947. They both called Lafond their home and enjoyed the company of its people. Mr. Trudel had been Chief of Police in Grandmere and La Tuque, Quebec, for 20 years.

Destiny or fate brought them out West on a Cluny farm in 1917. Marie Ange was only five years old then. The reason for the move was to avoid two of their boys possibly being called to war. For a while their life was a nightmare of troubles and regrets, hail, crop failures, winds and soil erosion and drought. One son died of influenza.

Marie Ange completed all her studies in a Red Deer convent, with the Sisters of Wisdom. (She affirms that when she left there, the wisdom didn't follow her, unfortunately.) She taught school at Sylvan Lake, Ste. Lina, Warwick, Cartier and Lafond where she met her prince charming, and married him in 1935. After a few years she went back to the classrooms, in Lafond and then the Blue



Abated Pride, Marie Ange and Hubert Lavoie with L. to R. Norman, Dolores and Ronald, their children, in a July 1st Parade in St. Paul Standing by their new De Soto car. Alas, a flat tire, right in the middle of the Street! Sheer humiliation!!



A picnic on the way to the Heinsberg Salt Mines, November 9, 1951. A hot summer like day. L — R: George Robinson from Girouxville, Rachel Lafreniere, Lena Robinson, Hubert Lavoie, Aurore Robinson and her husband George sitting on a stump.

Quills, Indian Residential School till 1965. She resigned in order to stay home and care for Hubert, whose health was rapidly failing. She is now a widow, retired and living in St. Paul.

Marie Ange had found it very difficult on the farm at first. She had never milked a cow and knew very little about farm work and tasks involved. However she was a willing learner. "Practice, makes perfect", she would always say. After several cow kicks and dirty cow tails switching across her face, she finally ended up quite an expert, at milking and most other jobs she had to do. Hubert was often out doing custom work, grinding grain, baling, threshing and combining. The children by then were old enough to help mom at home.

Hubert was an "entrepreneur", indeed! He was always over eager to try out the new machinery that came out on the market. He was one of the first to tackle a combine and was told he was a fool



A banquet at the St. Paul, Golden Dragon Lounge in honor of sister Rose Tremblay, Audette and husband Remi from Port Alberni, B.C. L — R: Real and Helen Lavoie, Rose and Remi Audette, Marie Ange Lavoie, Bob and Yvonne (Tremblay) Sandboe, Louis and Marguerite (Lavoie) Billo. All old timers of Lafond residents.

to trade in his threshing machine for it. He was almost discouraged for a time. It was the same story when he purchased the new haying equipment. Nevertheless, it was not long after, that combines and balers were heard rumbling around the country. They had become very popular.

It was all a life of hard, endless work, with many failures and disappointments at times but fairly successful after all for the whole family.

Hubert Lavoie's children;

Ronald, born June 18, 1936 died of a heart attack, in Vancouver Dec. 18, 1968 — 6 months after his dad.

Dolores, was adopted at 15 months. She was born on Feb. 22, 1942. She is now Mrs. John Keeping and living in Montreal.

Norman Lavoie born March 17, 1939 — in Lafond at home. The roads were all blocked. The doctor had to come in a snowmobile across the lakes. Norman is married to Yvonne Magueau, eldest daughter of Bibianne and Armand Magueau of St. Lina. They were married in St. Lina, May 5, 1961. There was snow on the ground that morning, some four or five inches — much to their dismay! They have three boys: Richard, born April 18, 1963, is now finishing his grade 12.

Paul was born August 23, 1964, is now in grade 11. Last but not the least, Bernard on Aug. 22, 1979 — a surprise package, but very welcome after all of 15 years. "Pictsky", is grandma Marie Ange's pet name for him, is very energetic and too active already for grandma to babysit anymore.

Yvonne is assistant accountant at the St. Paul Treasury Branch bank. Norman is a fireman and trucker. He trucks for the C.N.R., the Horne and Pitfield Wholesale at times several stores in town and mainly for McLeods.

IT SHOWS ON YOUR FACE

You don't have to tell how you live each day,
You don't have to say if you work or play,
A tried and true barometer, serves in place,
However you live, it shows on your face.

The false, the deceit you wear in your heart,
Will not stay inside, where it got its start,
For sinew and blood is a thin veil of lace,
However you live it shows on your face.

If you have battle and won the game of life,
If you feel you've conquered the sorrow and strife,
If you played the game square and you stand on first base,
You don't have to tell it, it shows on your face.

If your life's been unselfish, for others you live,
And not what you get, but what you give,
And you live close to God in His infinite Grace,
You don't have to tell it, it shows on your face.

OUR RIGHT TO LIVE

The Pioneers insisted on,
Their right to work and play,
And that is all they asked the world,
To let them have today,
The right to live in freedom and
To worship as they chose,
And to express whatever thoughts,
To honour or accuse.
It is their independence and
The Heritage they gave
To all their sons and daughters for
As long as they would live,
The liberty of home and hearth
And courts where they may go
To settle in equality,
The problems that they know,
So let us be prepared to fight,
For our pursuit of happiness
And every human right.

Author unknown.

THE PIONEERS

They tried and tried again!
'Tis a lesson we should heed
They tried and tried again!
If at first, they didn't succeed,
They tried and tried again!
Then their courage did appear
They did conquer never fear
They tried and tried again!

When they found their task was hard,
They tried and tried again!
Time brought them their reward,
For they had tried and tried again!
All the trying pioneers could do,
Why with patience, may not you?
Only keep this rule in view,
They tried and tried again!

Mrs. Hubert Lavoie

REAL LAVOIE

by Real

I was born May 4, 1918. I started school in Carlier. My first teacher was Mr. Simon Muri.

In the winter months, I worked for Mr. Philias Jean our neighbor, whose house had burned down. I went to Moose Mountain to cut lumber for his new house. I got five dollars a month for this hard work. Starting in 1941, I worked up North, in the Boutin lumber mill, near Pinehurst Lake, for three whole winters. I travelled with horses to the camp.

At five dollars a month, I had to work four months to buy an \$18.00 suit.

I also went to Terrace, B.C. and Prince Rupert



Real and Helen Lavoie married 1949, July 19.

and worked in the lumber camps.

On July 19, 1949, I married Helen Bodnar, daughter of John and Elsie Bodnar of Brosseau, Alberta. 1949 was a dry year, the following two years also, so times were hard.

I had one quarter of land at the time. In 1950, I bought a quarter of land from Mr. Hector Dupuis, one mile East of Lafond General Store. In 1956, I bought two more quarters of land from Alex Robinson. I now owned one section of land.

Harvey our first son was born on June 2, 1951. He went to Lafond School. He graduated in St. Paul Racette School.

Harvey married Debbie Rudell from Cold Lake, Alberta on April 19, 1975. Harvey is now employed at the Credit Union, Canadian Air Forces Base, at Cold Lake. Harvey and Debbie have 2 sons, Curtis born May 25, 1976, and Chris born August 12, 1980.

Thomas our second son was born May 1, 1955. He also attended Lafond School, then went to St. Paul Regional School, where he graduated.

Tommy is a welder. He works for Iron Workers in Edmonton, Alberta.

Our third son was born in the St. Theresa Hospital, St. Paul, on March 29, 1963. David is still at

home attending the St. Paul Regional High School, taking Grade twelve.

I sold all my land in 1976, to Art Gingras. We moved to St. Paul, Alberta on Nov. 6, 1976, where we are still living.



Taken April 19, 1975. Real, Harvey, Helen, David and Tommy, Debbie Lavoie. Family picture.

ERNEST LEBOEUF STORY

by Cecile Tomlinson

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Leboeuf came from St. Charles Quebec and arrived around 1915 to the Lafond area and settled on a homestead, one mile east of Lafond and 1½ miles north, on west side of the road. They lived there for some thirty years raising many hogs. They retired in St. Paul in 1945. They bought a little house close to the church, the hospital and the stores — a real fine location. Mrs. Leboeuf passed away in St. Paul after a short illness on July 26, 1956, at the age of 85, and Mr. Leboeuf died on December 9, 1959, also 85 years of age.



Taken at Philias Jean's home in app. 1943. Left to right: Mrs. Leboeuf, Mr. Leboeuf, Francoise Cote, Philias Jean, Mrs. Frechette, Mr. Frechette, and Isabel Frechette in front.

VASIL LESOTA

by Mary Zacharuk

Vasili or Wasyl as the neighbors knew him, was born in Grodno, Russia on January 30, 1880. His parents died while he was young and he was brought up by his older brother. There was much unrest in his country, and to avoid being drafted into the army, he sailed on the Kaiser William for America. He landed at New York in 1907 and found work in the States for 3 years. Then he came to Canada and worked for a year at odd jobs before he took a homestead at Lac Bellevue in 1911 on the N.W. 32-55-9-W4. This land is situated on the S.E. of Lac Bellevue Lake.

It was cold and snow was starting to fall when he came to his new land. He erected a shelter of trees and roughed it the first winter. Game and fish were plentiful. He broke land with oxen and a walking plough. He bought an adjacent quarter of land several years later.

Through correspondence with his brother in Poland, he heard of a single girl that would come to Canada as his bride. He sent Maria Galecka (1895-1975) a ticket and when she arrived, they were married in May 1929. Three children — Mary, Anne and Peter — were born to them. Mrs. Lesota left the farm 10 years later as she found the hardships too difficult to bear. Mr. Lesota spent the rest of his life alone on the farm until he had a stroke in 1956. Then he was in the nursing homes at Edmonton and St. Paul until he died in 1971.

Mary — married Nick Zacharuk and is living in the Lac Bellevue area.

Anne — joined the Religious of the Sacred Heart and is teaching in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Peter — died at 2½ months in 1936 from pneumonia.

Wasyl loved the land, and his cattle and horses.



Mr. Lesota at nursing home with grand-daughter Donna Zacharuk. Taken in 1969.



Mr. Wasyl Lesota with daughters on one of their visits from Winnipeg where they lived with their mother. Taken in 1946. Left to right: Annie, Mr. Lesota, and Mary.



Mrs. Mary Lesota holding daughter Mary. Taken in 1933.

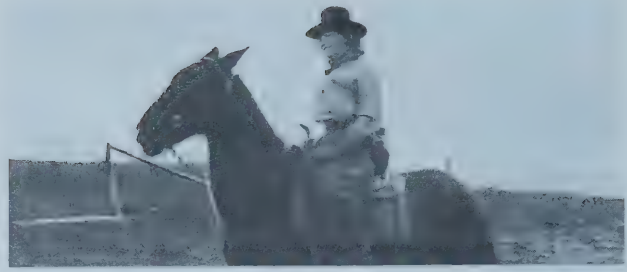
He grew grain and made a garden for himself. He never owned a truck or car. He would get a ride to town with a neighbor, or go with horse and buggy.

THE LESSARDS STORY

written by Pauline Kirk (née Clark)

As I recall from what I heard my mother say, the Lessards settled on a homestead about half a mile north from my Grandfather Sifroi Labrecque's homestead. This was about 1909 or 1910. As near as I can remember, they must have had three girls and I think five boys. They built themselves a log house on this homestead. They had a small portable sawmill which they set up near a small lake. It was from this sawmill that my grandfather got the lumber to build the two storey house that we, the Clark Family, later grew up in.

Lessards remained on this homestead but moved their sawmill south east of Grandfather's place, along a creek which drained the swamp into the North Saskatchewan River. This creek was then called Lessard Creek. While Lessards lived on the homestead, Mrs. Lessard was bitten on the face by a poisonous spider, this resulted in her death. After being on this homestead for 3 to 4 years, one of the older boys filed on another homestead, built a house and the family moved there. The Labrecque and Lessard families would, weather permitting, walk 6 to 8 miles to visit each other. I don't know



Eva Lessard lived on the S.E. 8-56-10. Her parents settled there about 1907.

how long Lessards lived on this homestead or where they moved to. Their homestead was where Mr. and Mrs. Baraska Sr. lived, in later years.

Tom Kirk formally of Athabasca helped Nick Gongas move his cattle from Athabasca to Brosseau in 1935. He and Carl Sally later worked for farmers around Lafond. Tom was working for Joe Désaulniers when I met him and, a few years later, I married him.

THE LIEN BROTHERS

by Jess Lien

My brother Tom and I came directly from Norway to St. Paul the 27th of April 1929. We got a job working on the farm for Hector and Herman Dupre at \$3.00 a month in summer and \$2.00 a day in harvest and threshing. It sounds almost unbelievable today but that was very much the going wage at the time. In spite of such low wages, we saved enough money to pay back what Tom had borrowed for his ticket. And in spite of working for \$10.00 a month the following winter, we had enough money to send a ticket to our younger brother Care, who arrived early next spring.

The summer of 1930, Care and I worked for the White Brothers, Will and Paul. Tom worked for Oscar Hedberg so we weren't far apart. But times got worse; jobs were scarce and no money to be made anyplace, but we doggedly hung on working here and there. Grubbing trees, cutting brush, splitting wood, anything we could get. A wood pile as big as a hay stack we split for \$5. A smaller one for \$3. We worked here and there until the fall of 1932, when Tom and I filed on some land that was opened on the west side of Lake Eliza in range 9.

In October, 1932, Care and I arrived on the homestead with a small team of horses which I acquired (the wagon and harness I had borrowed from Orley Springsteel) axe, saw and grubhoes, and the most important of all, our rifles. We had to cut some brush before we could cross the creek which was quite high after recent rains. But we splashed across and set up a tent on a flat by the lake. It snowed that first night we were there so it wasn't a very promising start as far as the weather was concerned. The snow went away and we



Bessie Lien, Steve Denega, Julia Boratynec. 1976.

started on our log shack. The logs were so close to where we were building, we carried most of them on our shoulders. Only the far ones had to be skidded in with a horse.

We had never put up a log building before. We only knew what we had observed our dad and others doing, and by the time Tom had arrived a few days later, the shack stood there in all its splendor, with sod roof and earth floor.

The door and our first table was made of planks we had for a wagon box when we first came in. The bush was teeming with game partridges, chickens and rabbits by the thousands. We never ate bush rabbits. There were so many the first two winters we were here, so they died by the thousands of a disease that no doubt nature is meant to control the population.

Never will I forget those nights by the campfire. The fire making a hole in the dark October night. Two poor, but enthusiastic homesteaders sitting there eating partridge or prairie chicken, or contentedly smoking their pipe by the fire. Rabbits, maybe a dozen of them sitting on the outer fringes, just like if they too were trying to get some warmth from this unexpected source.

In the evening one of us would go directly to the tent and build a fire, and the other one would go through the bush to get meat for our supper. And to illustrate how plentiful the game was, we very often got them at the same time.

Our next building was a snowshed for the horses, but that involved a lot of work, as we had to build a bridge across the creek, before we could haul the straw in. It was small but it was a shelter and it was never warm but it was dry. Never have I seen horses more pleased to get into a big warm barn, though ours were to get into that small poor straw shed on the homestead.

When I devote so much time and space to the homestead days, there is good reason for it. This was something all homesteaders had to face. And those that came into a completely unsettled country had it a lot worse than we did. We came into a

country that had people living in it. We had neighbors where we could go for help if the need was there. Some of the early settlers had nobody. And now there are few if any, of these left to write about their experiences in this book. That's the reason I dwell so much on the early homestead days in this article.

And speaking of neighbors, they were all good to us. We had the Poloway's, to the south, Pete Yuschyshyn and Tom Petruk to the west, and Dan Halina to the north. They were all good neighbors. And Mrs. Halina, God bless her memory. She was one of the finest women I have ever met. If I, by some mistake should ever get to Heaven, I'm sure I will see her there.

In the first year we could never leave her place hungry or without a loaf of bread or a dozen freshly baked buns. And the first spring she gave me a setting hen and a dozen eggs, that she picked out by holding towards the sun to see if they were fertile, and everyone of them hatched.

We had cleared some land in the winter time, before the snow got too deep. We would build a fire so we had light and then carry stumps and windfall, and whatever trees we could reach within the circle of light.

The first summer we broke eleven acres, all done with horses. The land had been heavily wooded so everybody in the district and some from across the river had cut wood and building logs there. But they all left the stumps, and some black poplars were so big, it took two of us to reach around them.

Time went on, we cleared more land, got some more buildings on the place, more horses and cows. But everything went slow. We had to work out to make a dollar, so we could keep on with improvements. We had done everything ourselves, made a shingle mill from the blade of a broad axe, bolted to a long log with two crossbars for headers. We tanned our own leather and made our own harness. We had a small field forge so we made practically all the tools we needed. Later we got a better forge and built a blacksmith shop. The blower for that forge Tom made from an old cream separator.

Chisels, punches, planer blades, horseshoes, we made them all. Care built a boat and we had lots of fun with it.

We made our own jumping skis built a ski jump on Oscar Johnsons place, and were jumping on a small scale. Some of these skis are still in existence today.

In the early winter of 1938, Tom went back to Norway and when Norway got involved in the war, he had the worst time he had ever had in his life. When communications were restored after the war, he would often mention good old Canada in his letters. Although he was here during the worst

times Canada had ever had, he got married there, and have two children a boy and a girl.

Care married Grace Potts and had two children a boy and a girl and both are married and have their own families. When he died in March of 1979, he left behind his wife Grace, a son Edward and a daughter Ellen, and five grandchildren.

I married Bessie Denega and we have one child, Eleanor that became a school teacher, is married and lives in Edmonton. She has three children; two boys and a girl.

We sold the homestead — or gave it away — land was worth nothing in 1949, and we moved to St. Paul where we have been ever since. I worked as a mechanic and body man, first at Conroy Motors, and in 1962 when Smyl brothers bought the business I worked there until I retired in 1975.

So much could be written about the old pioneers, their hardships and their triumphs over a hostile environment. Many of them were illiterate, but they all had common sense and realized the value of an education for their children. So many of our greatest leaders today, were born on a farm. Some of the older ones were born on a raw homestead tucked away in a safe place, while Mother and Dad were swinging an axe and grubhoe trying to get a foothold in this land of ours.

Happy homestead days

We started on a Homestead — the fall of thirty two, and believe me when I tell you - there was a lot to do. For winter it was coming - we didn't know just when, but for ourselves and horses - we must have shelter then.

The first thing we started - was a little Homestead shack, and most of the materials - we carried on our back. The walls were made of logs - that we plastered up with mud it had on earthen floor - and the roof was made of sod.

We had a little heater - the only thing we had, we added a small pipe stove - we used for baking bread. But baking bread in winter - it often was a flop, it didn't bake too well - if the dough had froze on top.

One stormy day in winter - I set a batch of bread, and talk about disaster - it really turned out bad. The loaves were hard and tough - just like sunbleached buffalo bones but when we built a barn - they were used as corner stones.

And next we made a strawshed - to keep the horses in, to say it was a building - would be a deadly sin. But it had one advantage - because it was so small, when mangers got too empty - the horses ate the wall.

With partridges aplenty - and prairie chickens too, and off and on a jackrabbit - went into the stew. And if a lonely porcupine - came wadding through the yard, we knocked him on the noggin - and rendered him for lard.

No, we were never starving - for food we had no fears, we sometimes felt like feathers - were sprouting from our ears.

But when we had no cattle - and couldn't kill a steer, instead we went out hunting - brought home a couple deer.

Next summer it was better - we got a Jersey cow, we added two more horses - and got a breaking plow. Some land we cleared in winter - we often worked at night, and piled the stumps and windfalls - by moon and fire light.

No, food was not a problem - but there were other things, I mean those little pleasures - that only money brings. Like whiskey and tobacco - or evening out on town the things that some good people - will look on with a frown.

But money was as scarce - as the teeth is on a hen, and if we had a dollar we only spent it when we need ammunition - a trap or coyote snare, on clothes we only spent it - if seats and knees were bare.

With cows and pigs and chickens - machinery and things, we felt that we had prospered - and really lived like Kings. And if we had some money we felt we had more clout, but when we didn't have - we could nicely do without.

We had our own amusement - it wasn't dull at all, we often sat there - shooting the houseflies on the wall. Or shoot a mouse that's eating - it's not like shooting fish, the mouse is easy enough to kill - but what about the dish?

A skunk can be a problem - if he is caught at night, we sometimes had to shoot - without the proper light. It doesn't make any difference - if wind is south or north, the fail can be much stinkier - than what the thing is worth.

We went to lots of dances - and had a lot of fun, some were in the neighborhood - and some were further on. No matter what the distance - at home we didn't stay, but saddled up our horses - and gaily rode away.

A way is always found - if there only is a will, it didn't take too long - until we had a moonshine still. With creeks and springs and shelter - facilities were good, and even helped a little - on our skimpy livelihood.

With a pocket flask of moonshine - and ten or twenty cents, we always were regarded - as being well heeled gents. But those that did not have - and were acting somewhat tame, they always got a nip - and were dancing just the same.

I often sit and think of those early - Homestead days, that were so full of hardships - but fun in many ways. But now we all have parted - and gone our separate ways, and sit alone and dream - of the happy Homestead days.

Av Jess Lien

ANTHONY LINKIEWICH

by Emilia Yaremko

Anthony Linkiewich was born in the village of Hinkowce, near Zaleszczyki, Poland. He was the son of John and Anna Linkiewich. Anthony had three brothers; Nichola, Frank, and John and a sister Mary.

After hearing about his younger brother Frank in Canada, Anthony decided to set forth to the new land. He left his wife Teresa and daughter Stella in Poland. Accompanied by his brother Nichola, who also left his family, Anthony arrived in Western Canada in 1913. Anthony filed for homestead N.W. 22-56-9-4 in the Lac Bellevue district. He built a log house on the land but finding the wilderness too unpleasant, he sold the land to his brother Nichola. Anthony left for Edmonton where he worked, brought his wife and daughter to Canada and later they had a son, Walter.

Anthony lived in Edmonton and was predeceased by his wife. They are survived by a daughter Stella and a son Walter.



Left to right: daughter Stella, Anthony Linkiewich and son Walter, and wife Teresa.

EMIL AND ANNIE LINKIEWICH

by Emilia Yaremko, Jeannette Linkiewich and Rose Laschuk

Emil Linkiewich, son of Nichola and Tekla Linkiewich was born in June, 1910, in Poland.

When Emil was 2 years of age, his father, Nichola left for Canada. Emil was left in the care of his mother and sister, Ludwicia. Ludwicia, being much older, married and Emil grew up the only child at home. He lacked the companionship one finds with other siblings.

In 1924, Emil's father wrote that he had made arrangements for their emigration to Canada. Emil and his mother prepared to leave Poland. His sister Ludwicia was at the train station to see them off. With a tearful departure, Emil and his mother boarded. What stood out in Emil's memory was his sister, Ludwicia, waving and running alongside the train as it started off. How much greater the grief would have been had they known it was their last parting.

The journey across the Atlantic was terrible because the ocean was stormy. They docked in Halifax, dizzy, pale and tired of the sea. This was not the end of their journey. Passing inspection at immigration offices, Emil and his mother travelled to Alberta to be met by his estranged father of eleven years.

When they met, emotions were mixed. The separation had lasted too long. Emil, now 13 years old, found it most difficult to call his father "dad." As father and son got to know each other, the ties became closer.

There were many things to learn in the new land. Learning English was one of them. Schooling was limited to summer months as the family could not afford to buy winter clothes. In the summer, attendance at school was only on days when Emil was not needed at home to help with seeding, haying or harvesting.

Therefore, most of Emil's time was spent help-



Emil and Annie Linkiewich shortly after their marriage in 1945.



Jeannette and Emilia,
daughters of Emil and
Annie Linkiewich. This
picture was taken
approximately thirty
years ago.

ing his parents as much as possible to clear the land and farm it. More relatives arrived and Emil found himself helping them out too. As Emil and his family struggled on, the farm began to prosper. He acquired more cattle, horses, machinery and buildings.

Sometime after, Emil received news from his sister Ludwicia, in Poland that she lost her home and belongings to fire. He tried helping her out by sending out care packages. The two corresponded until the invasion of Poland and like many numerous villagers, Ludwicia and her family disappeared. The years immediately following the war were filled with hope and many a futile search, through the Red Cross was made in hopes of finding her.

With no sisters or brothers, Emil, a young man began to seek the companionship of a young girl. He was most happy when he met Annie Marko who accepted to share her life with him. Their union was blessed on July 12th, 1942 on the feast of St. Peter's.

Annie Marko was born November 23rd, 1920 to Andrew and Annie Marko of Beauvallon, Alberta. She came from a family of seventeen children and very soon developed the trait of industriousness. Annie left home at the age of 15, and took up house-keeping duties with a French family; the Roberges. Her seven years there resulted in Annie learning the French language. She is trilingual; English, Ukrainian and French.

After their marriage, Emil brought his young bride to live on the farm of his parents in the Lac Bellevue district. They remodelled a shack into live-able quarters and continued clearing more land and raising more stock.

Four years later, their daughter Jeannette was born. Then two more children were born; Emilia and Rose.

The family was virtually self-sufficient depending on the crops raised in the clearing. They kept cows for milk, chickens for eggs and meat and a large garden for vegetables. Nothing was bought at the store that could have been grown or made at home. Only items such as sugar, salt, spices,

thread, coal-oil, and kalsomine (calimine) to white wash the house were bought.

Annie did a lot of sewing. Sugar and flour sacks were saved and made into sheets, pillow cases, dishtowels as well as petticoats. She made most of the childrens outer clothing also.

She baked her own bread, put up preserves and canned vegetables. Animals were butchered and the meat salted, smoked or canned in preparation for the months ahead.

She even made her own soap. Clothes were scrubbed by hand and boiled on top of a wood-burning stove.

To Emil and Annie, the family meant a great deal. The children were well fed, dressed and clean. Emil would always accompany his two oldest children on their 1½ mile trip to Lac Canard School. The children rode on bobsled or on a cutter in winter and by tractor or on foot in summer. When Emil was busy on the fields, Annie would push her youngest daughter in a carriage all the way to school and meet her other girls.

Because Annie worked along side Emil in the fields, the children spent a great deal of time in the fields.

Life had its hardships and difficulties, but it had a great deal of fun and excitement too, such as Christmas, Easter and other Christian Feasts.

Christmas, was always a happy occasion and a cause for celebration. The Christmas Eve custom was the preparation of a 12 course meatless supper. The sharing of the "oplatek", the Christmas wafer, was religiously observed. After the meal, the family sang Christmas carols.

Easter was a more solemn celebration. On Holy Saturday, an Easter basket with Easter food was prepared. The basket had Easter breads — a paska and a baka, sausage, ham, cottage cheese, butter, salt, beet relish and krysanky. Early Easter morning, the family took the basket to church to have the food blessed. After church, the food was shared by the whole family. Everyone was most eager to eat, as it was the custom to fast from Holy Friday.



Rose the youngest daughter of
Emil and Annie Linkiewich.
Taken about 26 years ago.
Notice the bonnets that were
fashionable then. They were
made by Annie.

Another traditional feast was "Zielone Sweeta" (Pentecost), celebrated in May. As was customary, Emil would cut 2 young saplings and place them on both sides of the door. Sometimes the veranda would be decorated with more of these young trees.

All these customs, passed on through generations had a special significance to the Linkewich Family.

In 1952, Emil purchased his first vehicle but the jubilation was brief. Tragedy struck in October of 1954, Emil had pneumonia and was hospitalized. Within 22 hours, Emil died in the prime of his life, at the age of 44. He left to mourn his young wife and three small children; Jeannette 8, Emilia 7 and Rose 2.

Annie remained on the farm in the company of her mother-in-law, Tekla. She rented out the land and kept a few domestic animals.

After eleven years, Annie was again separated with the loss of her mother-in-law. Her three girls were older and helped out on the farm. All these girls were raised on the farm. Their love for farm life has found them all settled on farms near their original home.

Annie lives with her daughter, Jeannette and her three children on the original homestead. It is thirty-nine years since Annie first came to live in this district. She lives in the home built by Emil and his parents, forty-six years ago. Some of the buildings that were built by Emil and his parents and are still in use today are a barn, a chicken coop, old shack, a log granary and a "koomora" (two room granary).

Annie is still active on the farm, Knitting, gardening, cooking, baking and sewing are her past time activities.

Her second eldest girl Emilia and husband Lloyd Yaremko live on an adjoining quarter of land to hers.

The youngest girl Rose and her husband Pat Laschuk live on her other quarter.

FRANK AND JUSTINA LINKEWICH

by Stella Linkewich and Emelia Yaremko

On May 15th, 1892, Frank Linkewich was born in the village of Hinkowce, near Zaleszczki, Poland. He was the fourth son of John and Anna Linkewich. The other sons were Nickola, Anthony, and John and a daughter Mary.

When Frank was 19 years old, he left Poland with a group of friends who were coming to Canada to join other relatives. June 15th, 1911, the ship "Summerland" docked in Halifax where he soon parted with his friends and boarded a train for Western Canada. At Winnipeg, he changed trains and not knowing actually where he was going, he soon found himself in Mannville, Alberta.



Frank Linkewich Family. One son John and one daughter Rose missing. Taken about 1970.

After reaching Mannville, he got a job with the Canadian National Railway, working on the tracks for 12½ cents an hour, ten hours a day, six days a week.

The job lasted for only six months and he had to look for other employment. He soon found work with the City of Edmonton Sewer Department where he dug by hand ditches for water and sewer lines. In the spring he left Edmonton and went to work in a coal mine in Evansburg for 50¢ an hour.

By the time Frank was in Canada for three years, he learned to speak a little English from friends and fellow workers and also with the help of a pocket-sized dictionary. Work was hard to find, so he went to 7 Mile House, B.C. where he worked in a camp clearing bush for a railroad and a division point of the railroad. Frank was in charge of ordering all the supplies for the camp and rail crew. When this job finished, he went to work for Ernie Good, a farmer in the Vermilion district for \$10.00 a month. By 1915, Frank ended up in the Myrnam district where he met and married Justina Mrochko. Justina was born in 1901 in the village of Kocil near Chortkiw, Ukraine. She arrived in Canada at age four in 1905 with her parents, Bartholamew and Rosalia Mrochko and her one sister Lucy. They all lived on a farm in the Myrnam district until her marriage to Frank. Frank, with his bride, spent four years with the in-laws. By this time, word was spread around that homesteads in the St. Paul district were being sold for \$10.00 a quarter. Frank and a few other people bought these homesteads in the Lac Bellevue district.



Sawing logs on the Linkewich homestead about 1935. Joe Linkewich on far side of sleigh. Notice size of logs taken off the Linkewich homestead.

When they homesteaded, there were no roads but wagon trails. The area was surrounded by muskegs and the homesteaders walked on rails and sticks to get to the neighbours place. When walking through the heavy bush, cut lines were used to mark their way so they would not lose their way back.

William Halina came into possession of a map of the district. The pioneers, with pick-axes, shovels and saws, cut the bush down for a road. Where they had to cross muskegs, they used horses to build corduroys for roads. Most of the labor was volunteered.

Nick Linkewich had built a log house on his homestead and shared it with Frank and his wife Justina while Frank cleared by hand, some land for his new home, garden and a place to put some grain in.

The only machinery Frank had was a walking plow, a two horse scraper and later a binder. Grain was seeded by hand broadcasting and harrowing was done with rails. The binder was another necessity. Frank owned a second hand six foot Massey, bought from Alex Taschuk of Brosseau.

Threshing was done by Dan Halina. The engine and the threshing machine were mounted on the same platform which was moved from one place to another by a wagon. The threshing machine had no blower. The straw fell on the ground and took extra help to fork it away.

As time went on, more land was cleared and buildings were constructed. Frank was soon considered the community handy-man. He built a blacksmith shop where he did all sorts of work from sharpening plow shares to welding a brace for the binder. He also built a portable saw-mill with which he sawed lumber for himself as well as neighbours and other people as far as 25 miles away.

As other neighbours moved into the district, a bigger school was needed so Frank supervised the construction of a two room school. Lac Canard School.

In 1944, Frank sold his farm and moved to Edmonton. After two years he decided that city life was not for him and bought some land in the Sedalia district, 240 miles southeast of Edmonton.

There he farmed until his retirement and now he has been living in the Coronation Paintearth Nursing Home in Coronation, Alberta.

His wife Justine passed away November 28th, 1973 as well as two sons Joe and Peter and one daughter Rose Krukowski.

Children living are Mary Milan and John of Vancouver, B.C., Pauline Zuk and Walter of Edmonton, Kasy of Calgary, Annie Gadowski and Joe of St. Paul, Alberta. Frances Letniak of Veteran, Alberta and Mike of Sedalia, Alberta.

84 TO-DAY

A date that's really important to me
It's May 15th of the year 1892

It's when I was born, naked and bare
A helpless creature without any hair.

I must have been at least one year old
Before I understood things I was told.

A few years passed, meaning little to me
As there wasn't a thing I could do by gee.

But the time came when I felt like a fool
When told I would have to start to school.

And I cried myself to sleep that night
Because I could neither read nor write.

It wasn't long before I changed my mind
About the good times I had left behind.

Later I helped my Dad to clear the land,
I cradled grain and bound it by hand.

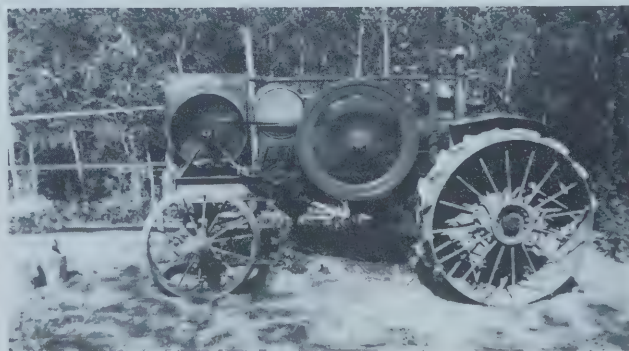
We plowed with oxen and walking plow
It was slow compared to how it's done now.

I helped Mother to milk the cows by hand
And carried the milk to the roadside stand.

We worked long hours for a dollar a day
But now it's about \$35.00 take home pay.

A dozen eggs sold for 6 cents at the store
And a pound of butter was very little more.

\$6.00 was the price of a 200 lb. hog
That wouldn't buy a week's feed for a dog.



Linkewich Eagle tractor sawing lumber — 1925.



Threshing on the Frank Linkewich farm 1938-39.
Andrew Zuk and Eugene Milan.
Pitching bundles — Joe Linkewich in Grain box.

We had no refrigeration or electric stove
Our house was heated with wood by jove!

Mother made all the clothes we wore
There was no money to buy at the store.
Mother spun wool and made all her yarn
For socks and mitts and some to darn
She churned the cream to make butter, too.
It's something the women of today can't do.
Mother baked good bread and pies and cake,
But today a lot of them won't try to bake.
They want all food, pre-cooked, even the meat,
And a lot of this food isn't fit to eat.
There was no such thing as radio and TV
But we had lots of fun at the dances, by gee.
Our hair was cut fairly close to our head
Today it's down to their shoulders instead.
Keeps you guessing if it's a man or a girl.
Our M.P.'s have wigs or long hair in curls,
It's an oldtime fashion for little girls.
They say their minds are under great strain,
And their long hair should help their brain.
The heads of government have swimming pools,
And laugh up their sleeves and call us fools.
They buy millions of eggs to make a fast buck,
Now the eggs are rotten and so is their luck
When I went to school the three R's were taught
Now it's a job lot of I don't know what.
If we don't take a firm stand and do it fast,
Our freedom will soon be a thing of the past.
There's lots of things old Fuddle Duddle don't
know

Like telling farmers what to grow.
Now I am old here with you all,
When we see him come down the hall,
With a cotton top "goo, goo girl" in tow —

Not one but a whole string or more
What have you got Frank, that we haven't got?
We'd sure like to know.

Now he sits here with snow on the roof
And a warm glow in his heart.
Now the "goo, goo girls" call him

Sweet Daddy at 84
He said, "think I'll stick around til 90 or more."

Written by Ray Elliott of the Coronation Nursing
Home in honor of Mr. Frank Linkewich's 84th
birthday, and printed by special request.

JEANNETTE LINKIEWICH

Jeannette Linkewich was born February 26th, 1946 in St. Paul, Alberta. She is the eldest daughter of Annie and the late Emil Linkewich.

She attended Lac Canard School for three years. Jeannette and her sister had to go 1½ miles to school. She recalls the walks to school especially during the summer. The school children had to cross the creek that ran across the road. The older children carried the younger ones across the creek.

Another incident she recalls, when the children took turns going for drinking water, to Tony Ostropolski's well.

Jeannette remembers stopping at Great Uncle Tony's and Great Aunt Maria Ostropolski's on their way home from school. Great Aunt Maria always



1980 — Jeannette Linkewich, daughter of Emil and Annie, poses in front of her home with her children — Lely, Randall and Yvette.
Her home is located on her father's homestead.

had a treat for them, a doughnut or Spearmint Gum.

After her father passed away in 1954, Jeannette attended school in St. Paul.

Jeannette has a son, Randall, and two daughters, Yvette and Lily. All her children are musically talented.

They live on her father's original homestead; N.E. 21-56-9-4.

JOE AND STELLA LINKEWICH

by Stella Linkewich

On Oct. 15, 1926 on a homestead in the Lac Bellevue district (Sec. 24 twsp. 55 Rge, 9 W4th). I, Stella, was the thirteenth child born to Mike Makowecki and Annie (Babey). In March 1928 one more brother, Bill, was born making us a family of fourteen. Although four did not survive their infancy, we were twelve to live in a two room house.

In November 1926, my dad left the homestead to my brother Harry and purchased a quarter of land partially cultivated from a Mr. Duteau (Sec. 4 twsp. 57 Rge. 9 W4th). While building a two room shack he rented a house across the road from a Mr. Lee. Twelve of us shared this shack. Though it may sound crowded to you, we didn't mind the close

quarters. That was the way of life in those days. There were beds all over the place, plus a big table, chairs, stove and cupboards. And that's what we called luxury.

My brother Joe was already married and had a son four months old when I was born. That made me an "Instant Aunt". I had two sisters, Mary and Julia. Mary married when I was four years old and by the time her first baby came along I was old enough to babysit for her. Julia got married when I was eight years old, leaving me with my brothers Mike, Demaytro, Steve, and Bill (my other brothers Harry and John were previously married). I grew to be a tom-boy, both working and playing with my brothers.

Lac Canard School was four miles from our home. In 1933 I started school in a one room school house which taught grades one to eight. Around 1936 they added another room to the school, which was then divided and grades one to four in one room and five to nine in the other. To get to school we had to walk across country in the summer and take the road in winter. On a real stormy day a member of the family would drive us by horse and sleigh or we hitched a ride with the neighbors.

My teachers were Donald McCullum, Harry Chrapko, Mike Fedorko, Mary Pawliuk (now Gadowski), Nick Karatew and Rose Slevinsky (now Bagan). In those days teachers were good disciplinarians and we were a good bunch of kids. I'm not saying that we were all brilliant students, but we were obedient.

I remember how, on rainy days, we kids would go to school barefooted. It was fun to have the mud squish through our toes. It was a bit treacherous on the school grounds, though, due to the gravel; but we survived.

I loved school. Unfortunately my parents could no longer afford sending me on. In June of 1940, after completing grade eight, I quit school.

In July and August of 1940, I was hired by Mr. and Mrs. Donat Noel. There I cleaned house, milked cows, gardened, canned, and even helped haul hay and stock — all for \$8.00 a month.

It was there that I learned to can vegetables and fruits, for my mother didn't can at the time. Instead, she dried all the vegetables such as beans, peas, corn, and onions. The root vegetables, like potatoes and turnips, were stored in a root cellar. With the sixteen dollars I had made in two months I bought myself a dress which was reasonably priced at \$3.00 and some jars which I took home so I could can for my mother.

The following year, 1941, there was an abundance of raspberries and strawberries. I loved picking berries, and I frequently went off with pail in hand to do just that. I waited until I had at least a dozen five-pound lard pails full of berries; then with horse and buggy I would go into town to



Back row: Ronald, Leonard, Larry — Front: Stella, Joe, Rosalie.



Father Frank holding son Johnnie, Justina (mother) cousin Francis Hrabec, daughters, Pauline, Annie, Francis' sons Joe and Walter
Approx. 1938.

peddle them. Sometimes it took me all day before I could get rid of my berries, for which I charged sixty cents a pail. In those days you never had to worry about thieves. On several occasions I left my berries unattended while I went out making sales and when I returned my berries would still be there untouched.

We really had to depend on Mother Nature for things such as berries, senega roots, etc, things that enabled us to make money. We did not keep the money we made; we helped our parents with every penny we earned.

Our entertainment was limited to local or neighboring surroundings. We got around with horse and buggy, or on foot. Sometimes we would walk five or ten miles to go to a dance. In winter we usually went with horse and cutter and we occasionally had an accident. Many a time we would upset ourselves in a snow drift. Fortunately we were never hurt.

My history would not be complete without mentioning a very dear lady, Mrs. Freda Gosselin. She was a school teacher and she organized all our summer and winter games. Every Sunday, a bunch of us would get together and go over to the Gosselins' place. They had large hills and valleys there where we played ball in summer. In winter there were perfect hills for tobogganing, skiing and slide parties. After we tired ourselves out, Mrs. Gosselin always had a lunch of potato salad, bologna and coffee for us. She even supplied the wieners for our

winter wiener roast. We never had money so we never thought about pitching in for the food she supplied so generously to a group of kids. Through the years we lost contact with her, but I will never forget her kindness.

For our entertainment we often had to resort to making our own games. Take hockey for an example. For the hockey stick we would grab a stick out of the bush. In order to get it to look like a hockey stick we had to peel off the bark and then stick it in boiling water to get the curve at one end. We fashioned the puck out of a tin can when we could find one. The goal was nothing more than a hole made in the middle of the yard.

Our second kind of entertainment led us to the top of the hill on a moonlit night. Here we would dance to the tune of mouth organ till the wee hours of the morning. There was no traffic in those days so the road was all ours.

I never associated with the town kids or folks from other distant districts due to the lack of transportation. My friends consisted of school chums and the neighbor's kids. That is how I came to meet my husband Joe, as he was not only a neighbor, but also a school chum.

Joe was born April 20, 1922 to Frank Linkewich and Justina Mrochko in the Lac Bellevue district N.E. 28-56-9-4. He was the fourth born of six brothers and five sisters, two of which died in infancy. Being the oldest of his brothers, Joe had to learn fast the trades of his father. Working alongside his father he mastered the arts of blacksmithing, sawmill operation and farming. Quite often his dad was away from home sawing lumber, so Joe stayed home to help his mother and sisters with the farming.

Joe attended Lac Canard School with his brothers and sisters. They travelled the two and one half miles to school in a caboose that was equipped with a woodburning heater and was drawn by a horse. A barn was built at the school for the convenience of sheltering and feeding the horses.

Joe left school in the sixth grade because his dad needed his help on the farm. Joe, along with his dad, worked hard sawing lumber by steam engine. The steam engine required a lot of wood and water to keep the steam power up. The farmers brought their logs onto a spot beside the sawmill. The logs were then pushed through the mill with the help of four men and the lumber was made. Methods over all have changed through the years. They also owned a threshing machine and helped the farmers in the neighborhood by doing the threshing for them.

When Joe was twenty years old his dad gave him the sawmill and sent him off to provide for himself. At twenty-two, Joe returned to the district. Being a neighbor and friend we started dating. On July 29th, 1945 shortly after World War Two was



Joe Linkewich sawing lumber about 1940 — Mill located on Olinsky's farm at St. Vincent — L-R: Unknown, Joe Linkewich, Elmond Peterson.

over we were married. Even though the war was over, there was still a shortage of products. Many things were rationed and hard to get.

Our honeymoon was spent helping my brother cut, haul and stack hay. After two weeks we moved to Edmonton and lived with Joe's parents. Joe got a job with a contractor and I worked for Capital Cleaners. We worked for two months. Then in October, 1945 Joe, who owned a two-ton truck, had that trucker's dream and returned to St. Paul to start hauling cattle and grain. Trucking lasted only a short time. We ended up spending the winter months in a rented house in St. Paul with very little money coming in.

In the spring of 1946, Joe's dad asked us if we were interested in working on a farm for one of his acquaintances, Mr. Harry Shannon of Dedolia, Alberta. In April 1946 we met Harry in Edmonton. He was on his way back from Vancouver where he spent the winters with his wife. The roads we travelled on were banned and we had to get a permit and could travel only by night. The roads were mostly trails so the two hundred and sixty five miles seemed like a thousand; especially for our 1938 two ton truck. Joe's dad came along; that meant four of us in a cab that could only comfortably seat two. We worked for Harry through the summer.

On June 1st, 1946 our first son, Larry was born in Consort hospital. He was two months premature and weighed only four pounds. Inexperienced, with no mother close by or friends (we were still strangers) and no incubator in the hospital, I took up the task of caring for my baby. With woolen blankets and hot water bottles around him I managed to put weight on him until he was safe enough to treat him like a normal baby. A job well done.

In Oct. 1946 we purchased a quarter section of land from Dan Petrowsky (N.W. 2-57-9-4) in the St. Cyr district. We got thirty five cultivated acres for \$1,500 with one hundred and fifty dollars down-payment. The rest of the money we borrowed from Farm Credit Corp. We also had a lease, released to

us by Dan, but we couldn't take immediate possession of it as Mr. Weigerunik (late Dr. Weigerunik's husband) was still renting it.

Owning a sawmill, Joe was lucky to have work that winter. From then on for many years Joe sawed lumber. As it was hard times for everyone, it was hard to collect the money after you did the work, but we survived.

While Joe was away sawing, I stayed home and looked after chores, farming and our baby. I prepared food for Joe that would last an entire week as he lived in a bunk house that he built for himself. Our home was furnished by donated articles such as an old cast iron stove and a home-made table and cupboard. Times were not easy and money was scarce inspite of all the hard hours we put in.

On Sept. 24, 1950 our second son Ronald was born. This baby was a month premature and weighed only five and one half pounds. Larry was almost four and one half years old so he babysat for me when I had to do chores and bring cows in from the pasture.

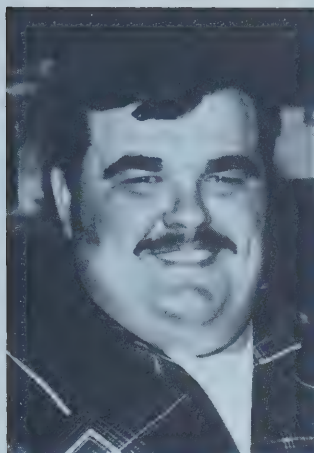
Living alone brought about many difficulties, with raising a family, doing chores, and me expecting a third child. Joe decided to give up his own sawmill in exchange for working as a sawyer for another outfit. He would have been making more money there except that the dream didn't last long. The company Joe worked for also had its share of problems; their mill was seized. We ended up selling the few cows we had and we moved into St. Paul. Joe didn't want to leave me alone on the farm.

Joe returned home and went logging with a Mr. Chamberlain. But misfortunes continued to follow; a tree fell on him and broke his leg. Still, Joe was determined not to let any of this get him down. After a few weeks, with a cast on his leg, he borrowed a peg leg from a Mr. Langdon, and kept on sawing lumber with his own mill.

On January 30th, 1952 our third son, Leonard was born. He weighed in at a healthy eight pounds. We stayed in St. Paul two years and during that time we realized that a town was no place to raise children. In the spring of 1954 we returned to our farm. We had still farmed while we were living in town so we had the equipment. We bought a cow and then slowly increased our herd.

On October 7, 1954 our first daughter, Rosalie was born. She weighed seven pounds, four ounces.

Times were getting better; we had better equipment by then. We had cleared more land, had purchased an extra three quarters of land, and rented more land too. Our boys were very ambitious. They loved to drive tractors and trucks, weld and build. With all this knowledge of equipment and with their enjoyment of this kind of work, they decided not to further their educations. No amount of talking could convince them to change their minds. In



Ron Likewich — 1979.

spite of that, we are proud to say that they are doing well in the careers they chose. Our daughter has a career as a hairdresser and is doing well also. She is now married to Hugh Kennedy and has a son, Scottie, born Oct. 9, 1979, our first grandson. Now she has also given us a granddaughter Christal Anne-Marie born Feb. 28, 1981.

We quit farming in 1975. In 1977 we got a trailer court going and began renting out the balance of our land. Business is doing unexpectedly well.

But no matter how good life was now, there was soon to be a dark cloud hanging over it. On May 20th 1980, our hearts were very much saddened by the loss of our son Ronald. His cheerfulness, good nature and his love of life will never be forgotten by those of us who love him. He will live in our memory forever as his memory will live forever in this history book. God be with him.

We had a good relationship with our children and our friends, which helped us cope with the modern way of life. And now, to conclude my story, I would like to say that we have made a lot of good friends in our time and we still are making friends. Rich, poor, hungry or not, our friends were always welcomed. We spent many hours over a pot of coffee or a meal with anyone who called on us and we were never sorry about having to delay our daily jobs. We never wanted, nor do we want now, great luxury. The simple things in life suit us. A lived-in look rather than an immaculate home is what we're happy in and our friends are at ease with us. We've enjoyed our life tremendously. People made us confident and that gave us the courage to carry on. All we want now is good health and to live to a ripe old age.

NICHOLA AND TEKLA LINKIEWICH

by Emelia Yaremko, Jeannette Linkiewich, Rose Laschuk

In 1876, Nichola Linkiewich was born in the village of Hinkowce, Poland. He was the son of John and Anna Linkiewich.

Nichola met Tekla Schlawpinski (born March, 1877) and after a brief courtship, they married. Together they set about making their living by tending their small orchard, fields and a few domestic animals.

They lived happily and during the years to follow, Nichola and Tekla had seven children. Illness took the lives of five children, ranging in age from infancy to early teens. The two surviving children were Ludwicia and Emil.

As the years passed, Nichola heard about Canada. He decided to provide a better future for his family and he emigrated. In 1913, he left for Canada, leaving his family with the hope that they would soon be reunited. Unforeseen, was a separation of eleven years.

Nichola arrived in Alberta in 1913 and worked in various jobs, both on the farms and in the cities.

In April of 1915, Nichola purchased N.E. 21-56-9-4, as his homestead. This became the site of his home later and now, his daughter-in-law's, Annie. He lived with his brother Tony in a little log house on the land adjoining his own. Shortly after, Nichola bought N.W. 22-56-9-4 from his brother Tony. This quarter of land is now the homesite of his granddaughter, Rose Laschuk.

While Nichola's struggle for survival in this harsh environment was difficult, back home, Tekla was going through similar hardships. For Nichola, life alone was hard but his strength and willpower helped him through many heart breaks. He continued to work hard and save enough money to reunite his family.

In 1924, Tekla and their son, Emil arrived. The two year old son Nichola left behind was now thirteen, a young man. The future looked brighter now that they had each other. Together all three, pitted axes, shovels, picks and themselves against the bush and rocky land of the Lac Bellevue District. They managed to clear a few acres of land every



Pictured above are Tekla Linkiewich, after being in Canada several years (app. 1935) and Nichola Linkiewich approximately in 1913.

year. Farm buildings were constructed and a new home built in 1934.

One of the tasks in finishing a building was filling the spaces between the logs. This procedure took a long time. Working bees, including most of the neighbours, were organized. Large batches of straw and mud mixtures were made. Young boys, such as their son Emil, were employed to lead the horses around in the mud and mix it up. Then the mixture was used to plaster the spaces between the logs to keep out the cold.

For Nichola and his family, work was the only answer to survival. Like for most immigrants, there was no government assistance.

However, for Nichola, Tekla and Emil, their strong religious upbringing provided them with the moral support to carry on through difficult times. Unable to attend church in their native language, they were visited by Polish priests. One of them was Reverend Rejguseak, an Oblate, who often spent the night and said Mass the following morning in their home. When the priest was unable to come due to lack of transportation, Nichola, his brother Frank, or Tony Ostropolski would go out with a horse and wagon or sled to Flat Lake and pick up the priest.

Later on when a tractor was purchased, Emil along with his mother, Tekla, would travel to church by tractor. An important occasion was the Jean-Baptiste Parade in St. Paul on June 24th. Tekla and Emil would always attend this event.

As the years went by, the farm prospered and was passed down to Emil who, in 1942, married Annie Marko.

In 1947, Nichola died at his home at the age of 71 years. His widow, Tekla remained on the farm helping out her children.

In 1954, Tekla's son Emil passed away. Her only family now was her daughter-in-law, Annie and her three children.

Tekla continued with her favorite hobbies: gardening, raising geese, cutting hay with a sickle and picking berries.

She enjoyed her raspberry patch very much. Tekla would get her grandchildren to help her pick enough raspberries to fill a case of quart sealers. Then she would wait by the roadside until one of the neighbours would come along and catch a ride to town. After the berries were sold and she was ready to go home, Tekla would buy three ice cream cones for her grandchildren at home. In order to get the ice cream home, she would place the cones in the jars. The grandchildren always looked forward to grandmother coming back home.

During the winter evenings and early mornings, Tekla worked by the light of coal-oil lamp, stripping feathers. With the feathers she made many pillows. While Tekla worked, she related many stories about her life in the old country.

All three grandchildren remember with great respect their grandmothers (babka's) courage and devotion to the Lord. Tekla was often seen with her rosary, praying. She always said a prayer before going on or upon returning from a trip. When her work was completed, she always thanked the Lord. Tekla taught her grandchildren to pray and sing in Polish. On Sundays, Tekla and her grandchildren would be seated in front of the radio, listening to Latin Mass on the French station. Prior to Mass, Annie would light the small Sanctuary Lamp and keep it lit until mass ended.

The grandchildren recall with great fondness all their experiences with "babka."

Tekla lived the remaining years being very active. In 1961 she suffered a stroke. Four years later, Tekla passed away.

At that time, Tekla was survived by only three grandchildren; Jeannette, Emilia and Rose and one great grandson Randall. Today, the Linkiewich great grandchildren are Randall, Yvette, Lily, Lloyanne, Andrew and Thomas.

WASYL (BILL) LOGOZAR

by Margie Kropiniski (nee Logoza)

Wasył (Bill) Logoza was born in Brosseau on June 25, 1911. He was the sixth child born to Ignaty and Anna Logoza.

When Bill reached the age of 12, he went to Mameistie School. At that time the children went to school only two months each year. Many of them had to go barefoot in the summertime. Bill had to quit school when he was fourteen years old, to help his parents with the farm work.

Shortly after, he went to seek his fortune. Bill was hoping to save enough money to someday buy a farm. His first job was at Streamtown and Marwayne where he helped an older couple with farming, chopping wood and other odd jobs they had. His pay at that time was \$15.00 a month.



Bill Logoza in 1940 harrowing with two teams of horses.



Bill Logozar breaking land in 1945, with hired man walking behind.

After working at whatever jobs he could get, finally in 1934, he bought two quarters of land in the County of St. Paul. This land was for sale at 50¢ an acre, because the people could not pay their taxes. While clearing his land, he was also cutting logs to build a cabin for himself. With mud plaster and dirt roofing, he finished his cabin and was ready for the long winter ahead.

This was fine for himself, but when he met Mary Woloschuk, he decided he needed a better house as he intended to make this girl his wife. Bill did not have any money for a house, so he had to clear ten acres of land for \$100.00, which is how much Ed Babiuk wanted for his house. They then moved the house to Bill's land, using eight horses. So, with the house and land, all he needed now was Mary, who accepted his proposal. They were married on August 13, 1939.

Mary was the oldest daughter born August 20, 1920, to Paul and Martha Woloschuk. She was born at her grandmother's house. At the age of nine, Mary started attending Moose School, which gave her 3½ miles to walk. With a teacher who did not understand any Ukrainian, and Mary not knowing any English, that first year of school was very difficult for both of them.

At the age of 14, she had to quit school to help at home with farming, caring for her two younger brothers and four younger sisters.

After Bill and Mary were married, they lived in the same house for many years. They had to plaster the house every year before the winter, to keep cozy and warm.

On November 11, 1941, Rosemarie was born at home, with the help of a midwife, Mrs. Dick Chester. Bill did a lot of road work in his spare time to make some money and pay off the taxes. Most of

the people did the same. Alvin was born on September, 1944, in St. Paul Hospital with Dr. Decosse attending. In 1945 Natalie, Mary's youngest sister, came to live with them. She started school in Chertsville. That same year, Bill, with the help of his brother John, built his new barn. To be able to fill his barn with more cattle, Bill went to work during the winter of 1947-48, as a coal miner in Cadomin. During this time, Mary was left to look after the farm and children. The following spring, on May 4, 1948, I, Margie, was born, in Two Hills, with the assistance of Dr. Winnitay.

In 1949 to ride in style, Bill bought a ½ ton truck. With machinery slowly taking over horse power, he purchased a tractor, a 10-20 McCormick Deering, and later traded it in for a D.C. Case, which was a good faithful tractor for many years. Bill had a tractor and his brother Mike had a threshing machine, so between them they did threshing for other people in the neighborhood, and earned a few extra dollars.

1952 brought another bouncing baby boy, Daniel, born on November 29, in Two Hills Hospital, Dr. Chonko attending. About this time, in the fall, they bought some sheep from Mike Popowich from Lake Bellevue, which gave more variety and value to their mixed farming. The wool, which they sheared from the sheep, made many warm quilts for the family.

Then on December 15, 1954, a nice Christmas bundle, Rodney, was born in Two Hills. Again Dr. Chonko attending. That same year Natalie moved back home with her father to finish school in Two Hills.

With things getting better, they decided to build a new home. With the help of Bill's brother Metro, and helpful neighbors, they were able to move into it, in 1964.

The three older children started school in Chertsville, a one room school with one teacher and grades 1-9 altogether. They walked to school in the summer, and in winter sometimes caught a ride in



Mr. and Mrs. Bill Logozar Family — 1965 — Back row: Margie, Bill, Alvin, Mary. Front: Danny, Rodney, Rosemarie.



Mr. and Mrs. Bill Logoza —
40th Wedding Anniversary,
August 12, 1979. left: Mrs.
Roselind Bachinsky. right: Mike
Logoza.

Babiuk's caboose, or went by horse and cutter. The school burnt down in 1954. Another one-room school was brought in, but about a year later Chesterville school was no more, as centralization to Lafond had taken place. It was time, the following September to watch for the big shiny school bus. There were some instances where the children had to walk part way home, due to very bad road conditions.

Rosemarie started school in Chesterville, then went to Lafond, and she completed her schooling in Two Hills. She then went to work at the St. Theresa Hospital in St. Paul. While in St. Paul, she met Walter Melnychuk. They were married Sept. 7, 1962. They are now living in Maidstone, Saskatchewan, and are the proud parents of four children: Melanie, Myron, Marvin and Melinda.

Alvin started school in Chesterville also, then went to Lafond, but he found he didn't like school too much, so he decided to quit after grade 10. He was a Wheat Pool Agent for several years. Alvin, later went into the trucking business for himself. He hauls to B.C., Saskatchewan and surrounding areas. Alvin and Jeannette Journault were married on August 12, 1967. They have two boys, Jamie and Jason to carry on the family name. They've made Westlock their home.

Like her older brother and sister, I, Margie started school in Chesterville, then finished in Lafond. I worked at the hospital in St. Paul, then for AGT for several years. On May 17, 1979, I married Richard Kropinski. We have two boys, Shawn and Sheldon and we live in St. Paul.

Daniel (Danny) started school in Lafond. When

he reached High School, grades 10-12 were then centralized in St. Paul. He continued in St. Paul for one year. Danny started out in mechanics, then like his older brother, took to trucking in Edmonton. He is employed by Bar K. Danny and Patricia Dubois were married on July 29, 1978. They and their son Mark live in Edmonton.

Rodney went to school in Lafond, then continued at the St. Paul Regional High School where he graduated. He then headed for the big city lights, but soon found out he did not like it. Shortly after this, he came back home and went to work for the Two Hills Chemical Plant. He is still employed by Western Truck Box, which bought out the Chemical Plant. Rodney married Ramona Lacombe on June 25, 1977. They reside in Two Hills with their daughters, Jessica and Crystal.

Mary and Bill are still on their same farm, where they intend to retire. They've had electricity brought into their home, which removed the familiar sight of coal-oil lamps. Running water that was recently installed, surely beats running to the well. They are enjoying these conveniences very much. They have many hobbies, and could probably spin a few tales about their favorite hobby — fishing. Bill and Mary also enjoy a good game of cards and some traveling.

THE LOGUE FAMILY

by Gertrude Logue

Robert Logue was born in Philadelphia U.S.A. on January 11, 1889 to Bernard and Elisha Logue who had emigrated from Ireland 3 years previously. When Robert was 3 years old, the family



Robert and Bridget Logue's 50th wedding anniversary, with family Louis, Bernard, Lawrence, William, Joseph, Sarah, Bridget, Missing is daughter Kathreen.

returned to Limavady, Ireland, where Robert grew up and went to school. At an early age Robert left school and worked as a sheep herder. At age 23, he married Bridget McLean. They lived in Limavady and had their first six children: William, Sarah, Joe, Louis, Kathy and Bridget. In 1924, the family moved to Scotland where Robert worked on a dairy farm for 3 years and one more son, Bernard was born.

They emigrated to Canada in 1927, and settled in St. Brides on June 27. Their youngest son, Lawrence, was born here. Robert and Bridget farmed in St. Brides for 41 years before retiring to Edmonton in 1968.

The couple celebrated their 50th and 55th wedding anniversaries in St. Brides, and Robert threw the first rock at the opening of St. Brides curling rink, as he was the oldest living resident in St. Brides at the time.

After his wife Bridget's death July 2, 1970, just before their 60th wedding anniversary, Robert lived with his eldest son William in Edmonton. He was able to make 2 trips back to Ireland before passing away October 2, 1979 at age 90. He left his family of 3 daughters, 5 sons, 37 grandchildren, 52 great grandchildren, and 2 great, great grandchildren.

RODNEY AND RAMONA LOGOZAR

by Ramona Logoazar (nee Lacombe)

On December 15, 1954 Rodney Logoazar, youngest son of Bill and Mary Logoazar (nee Woloschuk) was born at the Two Hills Municipal Hospital in Two Hills, Alberta. He took his schooling at Lafond and St. Paul. He then started working at Two Hills Chemical Company in 1974. After working there for a couple of years, he got a job at Highway 28 Freightways in St. Paul. From there he went to work at Ironco Works in Edmonton. Not liking the



Mr. and Mrs. Rodney Logoazar, daughters, Jessica and Crystal.

city life, he returned to Two Hills Chemical Company.

On June 25, 1977, Rodney married Ramona Lacombe at the Mamaestie Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Church, Brosseau, and made their home at Two Hills. They have two daughters, Jessica and Crystal.

Ramona is the eldest daughter of Raymond and Denise Lacombe (nee Malo). She was born on October 29, 1959 at the St. Theresa Hospital in St. Paul. Ramona took her education in Lafond and St. Paul, graduating in 1977, with a Senior Business Degree. After graduating, she was employed at St. Paul Regional High School.

Rodney continued to work at Two Hills Chemical Company until the plant shut down in June 1980. He then got on with Oakdale Construction renovating the Plant for Western Truck Body Manufacturing Ltd., where he is presently apprenticing as a welder.

After working shift work at the Plant, he enjoys his weekends off spending time with his family, and going fishing, hunting and skidooring.

In the near future, they are hoping to build a home in the Lafond area.



1st wire line truck constructed by Rodney Logoazar at his new employment.

JOHN AND WILHELMINA LOOY

by Lyda Cottenbos

John and Wilhelmina emigrated to Canada in 1906, from Utrecht, Holland. They settled in the Coronation area, and took up farming, raising a family of 4 boys and 4 girls. Richard, John, Lyda, Bill, Nellie, Floris, Agatha, and Winnifred. Besides farming he butchered, and cut up meat for neighbors near and far. In 1927, Wilhelmina passed away.

In 1934, when the drought and grasshoppers forced him to move from the prairies, John and his family settled in Lafond, Alberta. There he also helped the neighbors out butchering turkeys, and their winter supply of meat.

After farming for a few years John retired from farming, and moved to St. Paul, where he worked in the butcher shops of the Co-op, Brosseau and Central Supply Stores.

In 1941, he married Sophie Tenove of Mallaig, and they had two daughters, Karen and Joyce who married and both live in the Glendon area. John retired when he was in his early seventies. He passed away at the age of 78 in December 1965. His wife Sophie, 80 years young is still residing in St. Paul.

Richard (Dick) and wife Mary live in Vancouver, B.C. He has 1 son and 3 daughters.

John (a widower) lives near Victoria, B.C. He has 1 son and 2 daughters.



Butchering 1938. Ernest Belzil and John Looy. The largest hog John ever butchered 1220 lbs. live weight, 1040 lbs. dressed.



John Looy

Lyda and Francis Cottenbos farmed in St. Brides, Alberta and retired to St. Paul, where Francis passed away in 1977. They had 4 sons and 4 daughters.

Bill married Edith Richards, they had two sons and two daughters. They farmed in St. Brides, and also operated the local store for years. Edith taught school in St. Brides and St. Paul.

Nellie married George Walsh, and live in Wakefield, Quebec. They had five children.

Floris married Laurette Jean. They farmed in St. Brides, and retired in St. Paul. They have 4 sons and 3 daughters.

Agatha married Leon Lamoureux. They lived in the district farming near Lafond, then moved to Edmonton with a family of 7 children.



John and Wilhelmina Looy's family in June 1979. Back row: Floris, Bill, John, Dick. Front row: Winnifred, Agatha, Nellie, Lyda.



Playing Baseball in 1959. Fathers playing against the sons. Back row: Jim Huppe, Domonic Quinn, Jim Dolan, Lawrence O'Hara, Wallace Rice, Ray Hunter. Front row: Mike Chornohus, Andy Dolan, Floris Looy, John Dolan.

Winnifred married an airman from England, Jack Smeeton, and they moved to Nottingham, England. They have 1 son and 1 daughter.

Bill and Floris Looy were very active in baseball.

THE HISTORY OF THE MIKE LUKENCHUK FAMILY

by Irene and John Rawluk

Mike Lukenchuk was born on February 12, 1875 in the village of Volchkiwci in Austria, the son of Micholas and Paraska, who farmed a very small piece of land in the old country. Mike was one of five children, which included three sisters; Anna, Maria, Helen and one brother George (Prodaniuk).

In his youth, Mike worked on his father's small piece of land and in January of 1900, he married Maria Kuryluk, daughter of Mihailov and Anna, who was born in 1880, in the village of Orelec,



Mr. and Mrs. Mike Lukenchuk with daughter Jennie Petruk celebrating their 60th anniversary 1960.



Maria Lukenchuk spinning yarn 1963.

Austria. Maria was a single child as all the other children died as infants.

Mike and Maria began a life together on a small farm which included one cow, two sheep, four or five chickens and a garden. As they struggled to make a living Mike and Maria produced four children; Anna born in 1902, John in 1904, Jeannie in 1908 and Helen in 1910.

In 1911, Mike decided to seek a better life for his family by going to Canada. His brother George made a similar move in 1913.

Alone, Mike left by ship from Hamburg, Germany and arrived in Quebec where he worked in a paper mill. The work was extremely difficult and the pay was poor so in 1916 he left for Mundare, Alberta where he lived with his sister and her husband, Anna and Dmytro Poohkay.

In 1917, he began a homestead for which he paid \$10.00 on a quarter section (N.W. 7-56-8-W4) one mile north of Lake Eliza. He cleared 18 acres of land and built a house. He had 16 cows and a pig, but in 1918 a drought came which forced Mike to feed his cows the grass roof from his house. Like many poor farmers Mike mortgaged his land to obtain cattle and machinery and as times became difficult he lost everything. He started over by renting land one and a half miles northwest of his first homestead in 1926.

In 1922 son John came to Canada followed by daughter Jennie in 1923 and by his wife Maria and daughters Anna and Helen 1925. The reunion with Maria came after 14 years of separation and while separated from his family, daughter Anna had been

married and Mike had become a grandfather.

Mike and his family moved to the Lac Bellevue district in 1926 where they farmed and established a small grocery store in 1929. His confectionary store provided such items as tobacco, chocolate and candies. But Mike decided to seek a second homestead on the N.E. 26-56-9-W4 in 1932. This became home and Mike and Maria developed a mixed farm which included a number of sheep.

Besides daughter Anna marrying Nick Rawluk in 1921, in the old country (children: Bill, Mary and John), Jennie married Tom Petruk in 1928 (children: Steve, Jerry, Mary, Olga and Ronnie), Helen married John Mudryk in 1929 (children: Mike, Marshall, Mary, Bill and Raymond) and John married Mary Markowsky in 1964.

Mike and Maria worked together on the farm and helped family and neighbours. Some of the neighbours included Pete Aksenchuk, John Prodanuk, Mike Lakusta, Steve Popowich and Tom Rawluk. Work was at times more than just difficult as when Maria broke both wrists while mud plastering a chicken coop in 1949. She had to be taken care of for six weeks by family and friends.

In 1952, John Lukenchuk (son) took over the farm, while Mike at age 77 and Maria, retired to St. Paul.

In selling their farm, the horses were to be sold at the auction in St. Paul so Maria, aged 72, walked the horses to town — some 14 miles. This was an example of the strength and vigour of these early settlers. Mike passed away on April 15, 1963 at 88 years of age. Maria continued to live alone in St. Paul beside daughter Anne Rawluk until 1976 when she moved to a nursing home. She passed away in August 16, 1979 at 99 years of age.

Mike and Maria Lukenchuk produced a heritage of family which included: four children, thirteen grandchildren, thirty-one great grandchildren and fourteen great great grandchildren. The Mike and Maria story showed how families sacrificed while attempting to seek a new home in Canada. Their hard work and personal sacrifice helped to make this country and helped to make the lives of their children much easier.

ARCHIE MACLEAN

by Danita Malo (MacLean)

It's a beautiful spring day as I sit here to write the story of a man and his family very dear to me. As I look back and recall the days of years gone by, memories flash vividly in my mind, as if they only happened yesterday. But in order to write about them I must start at the beginning, for without this man, they would not be possible.

It all started on August 7, 1913 in an old log house, not far from St. Paul. Here the second child of John and Mary MacLean was born a beautiful,



Archie with his favorite guitar,
and his lovely smile.

lively and healthy son, Archie Stanley MacLean. Shortly after he was born, the family moved to the Many Lakes area and homesteaded there. Dad had the usual childhood, a home full of love and kindness, but also hardships, which were endured by many families in the early 1900's. Dad began school at the age of 10 years and finished when he was in grade 5. He and his brothers and sisters only went to school in the summer time, because in the winter months, it was too cold, and there was no heating in the school. But not all the summer days were spent in school. There were the usual chores to do at home, chopping wood, feeding stock, bringing in the hay and so on. When this was done, for a treat, grandpa would hitch up the team to the democrat and they would go and see Emile and Camilla Malo's family just across the lake from them. While the parents would visit and talk of the usual things, farming, cattle, the high cost of living, the kids would play their usual games. But one story in particular told to me by Alphonse Malo was of how they used to like to sit in the half finished upstairs of the house and dangle their feet over the edge, above their parents heads. At the time it was such fun and they would have the time of their lives just being kids.

But as kids do, they grow up. At the age of 15 yrs. dad left home to work for the local farmers of Lafond, such as Octave Robinson, Armand La-



Maclean Family 1954. Archie, Alaine (Smith)
Neddy (5), Danita (2 months).



McLean Family 1971.
Alaine, Neddy, Danita, Archie.

pointe, Albert Torangeau, Mr. Laventure, Oscar and Richmond Malo, and many others. Here he spent quite a few years working, playing ball for one of the local teams, and taking part in the many musical events, which he was very good at. Dad could play a variety of instruments which included the guitar, fiddle, accordion and banjo. A few times he played with his old friend, Alphonse Malo, also with the Foisy boys, Wilfred and Leo. He also took part in a band which played locally, headed by Pat Paul. But not all his free time was spent playing music, dad was also a very good bronco rider. He broke horses for many of the farmers. But his love was for the rodeos. For years he attended the local events in St. Paul, Saddle Lake and Big Fish Lake. He was classed as one of the best. As dad got a bit older, he retired from riding, but unable to stay away from the excitement of the events, dad became a judge for St. Paul, Saddle Lake, Hi-Lo and Wainwright.

At the age of 27, dad joined the Army in Calgary at the Currie Barracks. He was in for 3 months when he took ill with lung trouble and had to be discharged. From there, dad went to work in Giscombe, British Columbia. Along with two of his friends, Simon and Ivan Robinson they worked in a logging camp for the winter months. Then once again, dad returned to Lafond where he went back

to work for his old friends.

In 1942, he began to drive the mail panel, which belonged to Joe and Arthur Devlin, from St. Paul to Two Hills. During this time he met his future bride, Alaine May Smith. She was only 11 yrs. at the time and was selling cream from the farm. Dad used to pick it up on his way back from Two Hills to St. Paul and sometimes, mom would hitch a ride as well, to go visit her grandma in St. Paul. But they never knew then that 7 years later, they would become man and wife.

Alaine is the daughter of Frank and Marguerite Smith, born on May 12, 1932 on a farm, 5 miles north-east of Brosseau Store. In 1945, after her mother passed away, the farm was sold and mom's family moved to the hamlet of Brosseau. During the years, 1945 to 48 mom and dad had not seen each other much. So when in the spring of 1948, dad had a good long look, and he realized that mom had grown into quite a beauty, his heart was lost instantly. So with his good looks, his bright smile and wonderful sense of humor, he won her heart. In 1949, they became man and wife. They moved to St. Paul and in 1949 their first and only son Neddy Edward was born. In 1950, mom and dad moved to irrigation country, Rolling Hills, Alta. Here dad worked for a good friend, Axle Auster-gard. In 1952, when dad heard of the Western



MacLean Children and Grandchildren.

Danita, Lionel 1981, Ian (2), Tia (4), Lee (5).



Neddy, Sheri, Dustin (9), Shawn (5), Tamara (6 mths).

Chemicals Plant starting construction, the family moved back to Brosseau and he began work at the plant, which lasted for 17 years. Mom went to work at the Brosseau Post-Office and Store for Mr. Henry Coutu and later for Mr. and Mrs. Leo Marceau. In June of 1954, a daughter (me), Danita Maureen was born in the Two Hills Hospital, but just barely. A story told to me by an old friend of the family, is quite funny. On the way to the hospital, mom was in labor, dad stopped the car to talk to Blackie (Lloyd) Butcher on the highway. After a few minutes of chewing the fat, dad told Blackie his reason for going to town, "My wife is going to have a baby." Well Blackie could hardly believe it, mom was in the car in labor and dad standing around talking. Well, we all made it safe and sound.

In 1955, dad and my uncle Wilfrid Smith decided to try their hand at farming, but it did not work out, so mom and dad built a little house in Brosseau. Dad got the farming bug again, so rented land from Emma Lavallee, which was situated behind their lot. We grew crops, and I remember helping dad in the fields, pulling out big rocks and also at harvesting time. We also had a cow named Blossom, she was so beautiful and serene, you could pull her tail or just lie under her tummy on the grass and she would just look at you, with her big brown eyes. I was never scared of her. Not like the pigs, I was terrified of them, but Neddy never was. It was our job to feed them, and I didn't care to do that. I remember once, Neddy told me "don't be scared, just stay close to me," so being gullible,

I followed him into the pig pen, in no time the pigs were all around us squealing and shoving, trying to get their food, there I was terrified, but I was with my big brother, no need to be scared, but Neddy was a big tease and decided to play a joke on me, so he left me standing in the middle of all those pigs, white as a sheet. To this day I still don't like pigs.

We went to school from grade 1-9 in Brosseau. High school for Neddy was completed in Lafond. On May 27, 1967 he graduated, along with 9 fellow students. My high school years started in St. Paul, Racette School for grade 10, Two Hills High School for grade 11 and then back to St. Paul for grade 12. Neddy was a very good hockey player. He played for the Brosseau Darts, St. Paul Canadiens, and the Two Hills Eagles. While in Two Hills he met his wife Sheryl Pawliuk. In July 1971, they were married and they now have three children Dustin Lee, Shawn Everett and Tamara Shereen. They make their home at Lafonde Crescent, St. Albert, Alta.

Dad was a "Jack of all trades" as mom would say, he had his hand in most everything, a farmer, a third class boiler engineer at the plant, a carpenter, bronco rider, a mechanic, a rodeo judge, and a fisherman. He never taught us to ride horses though, I guess he didn't want us to get hurt. Dad taught me to fish and to set up camp. The great times we had fetching wood for the camp fire. Neddy and I would follow dad around the land, trying to do as he did. I was forever trying to get away from doing the dishes or housework, so I

would tell mom that dad needed me to help him build a table in the workshop or to overhaul an engine in the garage. He taught me everything I know about cars. Oh! the lovely times we had together. Getting grease and oil all over our clothes, slivers in our fingers and just about anything else. Mom would get mad at us, but then just smile because we were so happy together. Then away we'd go back to the grease and oil to do another job of sorts. My great interest in cars never stopped, the greatest accomplishment though, was when dad taught me to drive a car. The patience he had to have. About the only thing dad never taught us kids was to speak French and Cree, he being fluent in both languages, also he never showed me how to make banok, my grandpa did that, so quite often I would make banok for the family, but it never tasted the same, cause it was made in a propane oven and not the old wood stoves.

In 1969, dad had a heart attack and was put on light duty at the plant. In 1970, he had another attack and was totally disabled to work. In 1971, after Neddy got married, we moved to St. Paul, mom was employed at Pete's Confectionery and later at Cole's Confectionery. In 1972, dad had a stroke and was left partially paralyzed, but was determined not to let it get him down, so with his love for living and his ability to bring laughter and happiness to others, dad continued to lead an active life. But on October 13, 1973 dad had another attack, for 12 days he struggled to live, then on October 25, he was taken from us. Dad is buried by his mom and dad in the Fishing Lake Cemetery.

No more will we see the smile dad always had, nor shall we hear his hearty laughter. Never again will he play the music we so dearly loved to hear. But our memories shall recall them and we have them in our hearts always. He was to see only one of his six grandchildren, and he loved children so much, but the others will know and love him as we do.

It was a difficult time for us, but we had to continue with our lives. Neddy, Sheri and Dustin returned to Edmonton and mom went back to work at Cole's Confectionery. I had been working in Edmonton but returned home and went to work at Henry's Texaco Service Station. I worked there for 1 year, during which time I met Lionel Malo, son of Alphonse Malo, dad's good old friend, (I sometimes wonder if our meeting was something other than ordinary, or if dad was above heading our paths together). In 1975 Lionel and I were married. We bought the Texaco Service Station from Henry Brault and ran it for 1½ years. We then sold out to Roger Roberge and Lionel is presently employed at Smyl Motors, I work for Roger Malo at Malo Bulk Sales Ltd., the Texaco Bulk Station. In 1978, we moved mom and dad's house from Brosseau to Lafond and remodelled it. In November of 1978, we

moved in our new home. We have three children Lee Cordell, Tia Laureen, and Ian MacLean.

Mom readjusted to her new life with the help of family and friends. So in 1978, she ventured on to Calgary, where she found work and lived with her younger sister Edith. There are also 2 other sisters and many friends in Calgary, so through them all, mom met an old friend, formerly of Rolling Hills, Terrance Thompson, which she had not seen in 29 years. On December 25, 1979 mom and Terry were engaged. Mom now makes her home in Calgary.

It has grown dark outside and it is now a beautiful night. I have felt joy as I have written down the story of my family, but also sorrow for the passing of a man, my dear father, who wanted so much to live. The memories will last forever in our hearts, and our love will never die.

With the future to look forward to, we will continue our lives, for dad would have wanted it this way.

JOHN MACLEAN:

by Danita Malo

John MacLean was born Jan. 16, 1886. At the young age of 18 years, he left the Whitemud area near Edmonton and came to the St. Paul area. He then married Mary Laderoute and they lived west of St. Paul until their second child was born. They then moved to the Many Lakes area and homesteaded on S.W. 9-52-20-4th on Aug. 27, 1928. They had eight children: Alice (Laboucane), Archie (deceased at age 60), Lloyd, Daisy (Stark), Lawrence (deceased at age 18), Violet (deceased age 3), Margaret (Fayant), and Arcen. In 1937, he sold the homestead to Fred Howsenberger for \$75.00 and moved to the Fishing Lake Colony, where he



Frank Smith, John and Mary MacLean, and son Archie.



Four Generations: Alaine MacLean, John MacLean, Lee Malo, Danita Malo (nee MacLean).

stayed until he died in March of 1979. Mary, his wife, died in 1959. He now rests with his wife Mary and two sons, Archie and Lawrence in the Fishing Lake Cemetery.

THE MACPHERSON FAMILY

by Winnie MacPherson

John and Kathleen MacPherson left their tailor shop in Inverness, Scotland to emigrate with their six children: Angus, Malcolm, Kathleen, Hugh, Mary, and Jessie, to Canada in 1926.

They settled in Ardrossen for the first year, then moved to their 1/2 section of farmland in St. Brides when the settlement opened in 1927. That year, their second youngest daughter, Mary, underwent surgery to correct a spinal deformity and spent a year in a body cast in the University Hospital in Edmonton.

They were a quiet family and retained their Scottish Gaelic language; husband and wife working closely together on the farm.

The eldest son, Angus, was an accomplished bagpipe player having taken lessons and belonging to the Pipe Band in Scotland. He played at Remembrance Day celebrations in St. Paul and for other occasions in St. Brides community.

Mr. and Mrs. MacPherson retired to Vancouver, B.C. in the early 1940's with their two youngest children.

Angus married Winnifred Doherty in 1938 and, after living in Clover Bar and working for Ottowell Mines, later returned to St. Brides in 1947 with his family.

Malcolm married Maymie Leonard and lived on the farm until the death of his wife due to complications after the birth of their 3rd child. He then moved to Vancouver with his small children to live near the rest of the family. Malcolm later remarried Joanne MacPherson.

Kathleen married Cecil Thomas, then at the loss of her husband, left for Vancouver, as well, where she later remarried Andy Bougie.

Hugh married Kathleen McLaughlin and resided in Edmonton.

Mary married James Leonard and lived in Vancouver.

Jessie married James Murray and lived in Burnaby, B.C. Jessie is the only surviving family member at present.

MAILLOUX, FLORENCE AND FAMILY

by Florence Mailloux

Lafond School #3304, is the little white school in Lafond, Alberta, where I, Florence J. Brosseau, taught between the years 1936-1939, first with Therese Belisle (Theroux) and secondly with Marie Mathieu (deceased 1971). The first year, Therese and I boarded at Mr. Jos. Desaulniers', a pleasant, soft-spoken, even-tempered gentleman. Mrs. Desaulniers, an exceptional cook, was well renowned for her savory "Tourtieres". For my remaining years I had Mr. and Mrs. Edmond Robinson for landlord and landlady. I, along with my sister Lucia (Mrs. Rene Robinson) batched in a little white house, north of the store.

After having served in the RCAF from 1942-1945 and married Norman C. Mailloux of Windsor, Ont., I raised my family of 5 children: Norman Jr., Gary, Phyllis (Fraser), Arlene (Dickson) and Dennis, and then returned to Lafond to teach from 1964-1968. Among my pupils were a number of children of my former pupils. The school was then a much bigger building and the staff consisted of teachers from Gr. 1 to Gr. 11. Three of my children, Norman, Gary and Phyllis, graduated from there.



Gr. 1 1938, Lafond School, Leonie Robinson, Rita Robinson, Yvonne Robinson, Pierre Fouquette, Marcel Gagne, Gaston Desaulniers, Henri Robinson.



Lafond School Students 1938 (Florence Mailloux) Front row: Jean — Pierre Malo, Yvon Robinson, Victor Lafreniere, Germain Desaulniers. 2nd row: Rita Robinson, Yvette Robinson, Laurette Robinson. 3rd row: Gilberte Malo, Fernande Gagne, Angele Desaulniers, Solange Desaulniers, Jeanne Doyon. Back row: Jos. Robinson, Therese Malo, Simone Robinson, Ernest Chmilar.

At first, I commuted from my home in Duvernay and then, when my driver Gary, went to NAIT, I lived in a trailer next to the school.

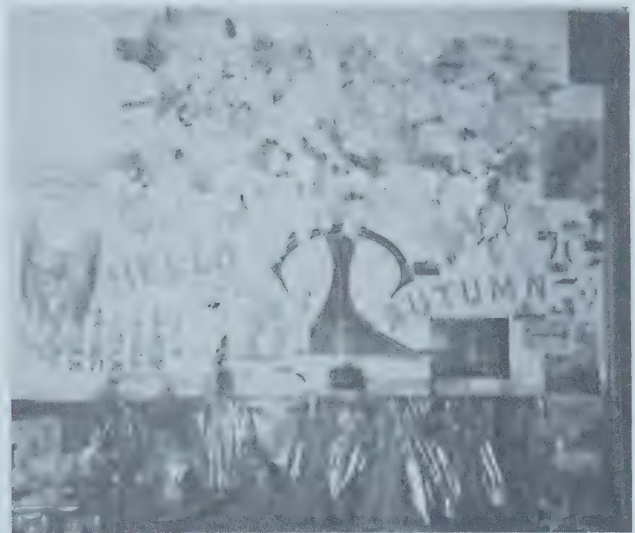
Pleasant are my memories of that district; of co-operative parents, eager Gr. 1 students, a dedicated catechism teacher, Sister Jerome, to help me, a friendly staff and school board. I am proud to think that in a small way, I contributed to the education of these children.



Left to right: Mrs. Jeanne (Jos) Brosseau and Rosalind 1965. Mrs. Florence Mailloux and Gary 1965. Background — by Sr. Yvette Routhier.



Mrs. Florence Mailloux, Norman Sr. and Phyllis 1967.



Project by grade 1 in Mrs. Florence Mailloux's class in 1967 in Lafond.



Norman M. Mailloux Jr.

MR. AND MRS. J.A. MAILLOUX

by Alice Mailloux

Mr. and Mrs. J.A. Mailloux were both born at St. Jacques-le-Mineur in Quebec. They met and married there, on Aug. 14, 1900. Almost immediately they emigrated to Manchester N.H. for better opportunities and resided there some eight years. That is where Olivier, Paul, Leo and Gabrielle were born.

In 1908 they decided to move back to Canada and settled in Montreal. Jean, Cecile, Marie Jeanne and Benoit were born there.

After 1918, they worked out in the country, as a unit, for the owner of two larger farms, the last being the Benedictine Fathers at St. Benoit du Lac. The youngest child Therese was born there.

The valuable experience gained, gave them the desire to own a farm and they located near Magog where they developed a thriving dairy industry.

After Paul had become parish priest of Lafond, Cecile and Leo decided to join him in 1935. The following year their parents sold the farm and they too came to Lafond with Therese. They lived with Leo who had acquired a farm by then.

In Oct. 1937, Cecile went back to Sherbrooke to join "Les Filles de la Charite du Sacre Coeur de Jesus". She taught in Montreal and in Sherbrooke where she has now retired, due to ill health.

In Aug. 1943 Leo married and Therese joined the Grey Nun Sisters in St. Albert. She now resides at the mother house in Montreal.

Mr. and Mrs. Mailloux lived for four more years in Lafond, then returned back East retiring to the Hospice du Sacre Coeur in Sherbrooke. Mrs. Mailloux passed away in May 1953 and he lived until Sept. 1962.



L — R: Mr. J.A. Mailloux,
Cecile, Mrs. J.A.
Mailloux.



Mr. and Mrs. J.A. Mailloux off for a sleigh ride.



Cecile Mailloux, in Lafond Alberta in 1936, when she kept house for her brother, Paul and evidently tried to learn to spin.



Mr. and Mrs. J.A. Mailloux moved to this house in 1943 when Leo married. L-R: Benoit Mailloux, Mrs. Eug. Lamoureux, Mrs. J.A. Mailloux, Bertha Jubinville, Mr. J.A. Mailloux, Alice Mailloux, holding baby Monique, Leo Mailloux.

LEO MAILLOUX

by Alice Mailloux

Leo Mailloux came west to the parish of Lafond in 1940. He was born in Manchester, New Hampshire U.S.A. on August 8, 1905, the son of Joseph Mailloux and Eugenie Tetrault. His parents were born at St. Jacques le Mineur, in Quebec, but had gone to live in the States after their marriage, to return again in 1908 to Montréal, where Leo attended school. One of his salient memories of that time was that of the Spanish Influenza which raged through the city causing thousands of deaths. He and his mother were the only ones of the household who were spared and who could tend to the family and the neighbors who were seriously ill.

At 15 he was employed at Birks, a large jewelry store in the city of Montreal. Because of poor health in the family, caused by the influenza, the doctor recommended country living, so they all hired out to do farm and house work for the Benedictine Fathers who owned a large farm at Lake Memphra, Magog. This experience served them well when, after the depression, they bought a farm at Magog where the main revenue became milk production and distribution in that city. Leo was in charge of the operation and made a success of it with the help of the whole family.

Towards the end of 1939, he sold his share to his brother and left for Lafond where his brother Paul had been parish priest for 5 years. In the following year, he bought two quarters south of Lafond, namely, N.W. 32-56-10-W4 and S.W. 32-56-10-W4 from Mr. Joseph Cartier. Soon his parents and his sister Therese also came west and settled with him in the older type home existing on the southern quarter. The only shelter for animals was a makeshift building of logs covered with straw so the first priority was to build a new barn. Leo intended to go into cattle and hog raising and because he had no tractor yet, a good number of horses was a necessity and they had to be housed.

On August 3rd, 1943 he married me — Alice Lamoureux, daughter of Eugene. I had been busy teaching in the surrounding districts of Cartier, Old Therien, Foisy and Doucet, after attending Normal



Leo and Alice Mailloux wedding picture, Aug. 3, 1943.

School at Camrose to become a certified teacher in 1934-35. In the following years, seven children became members of our family. Monique, Marie-Line, Remi, Paul, Therese, Jean-Claude and Michelle.

The farm prospered generally, but it became evident that if we were to enjoy the convenience of electricity we would have to move closer to the hamlet of Lafond. This was a heavy project but in the spring of 1946 with the aid of the ever helpful neighbors, the house found itself propped on piles on the corner of the quarter close to church and school and adjacent to a barn built by a previous owner. During that summer a cellar was dug and a foundation poured. It was a great improvement to get refrigeration and eliminate the hand operated washing machine.

The next years were good to us, a garage and a shed were built, we acquired a truck, a tractor,



The hay harvester that picked up from the windrows and when full, blew the hay on the stack.



Leo and Alice Mailloux Family: Back row: Leo, Monique, Marie-Line, Alice. Front row: Michelle, Jean-Claude, Therese. Sitting: Remi, Paul.

a combine, a hay harvester, to name the main ones. Disaster struck also once when Leo broke a disc in his back in a fall in 1952. Because of this accident he wore a body cast for 6 months. In the last two months of this ordeal, he did build the new addition to the house, put new siding and a new roof. I remember a few humorous situations — when I had to cool him by blowing air with a vacuum under his cast, and another time when he got caught on the scaffolds with one foot above his head, because of his limited movements and I had to climb up to straighten him out.

In the spring of 1961 the barn went up in flames. We were lucky the high school boys rushed in to help move the animals and save some of the equipment. They were everywhere putting out fires in the grass and on the roof tops. Needless to say the following summer was spent erecting a new barn and equipping it for our herd of some fifteen milk cows.

Leo was also active in public life despite the busy-ness of farm life. He acted for six years, January 1956 to December 1961 as trustee for the School Division. This was during the time the government was trying to consolidate the school districts and the legitimate fears of the parents caused conflicts which had to be resolved. These were trying times for everybody.

He was also a director and president of the Lafond Credit Union from its foundation, April 9th, 1943 and had the pleasure of seeing it grow from a few to some 200 members when he left 24 years later. An example of many similar transactions at the beginning, (remember we were still in the depression), 10 dollars borrowed for a year and paid back at 1 dollar a month. Today that Credit Union has a turnover in the millions yearly.

After 27 years of farm life, both our healths

were failing and we decided to sell the farm and relocate in the city of Edmonton in 1967. This favored four of our children who had decided to attend classes at the University and at NAIT. Leo passed away 4 years later. I worked five years for the Sisters of the Holy Cross and retired in 1976.

Here is a short history of our children. After obtaining her B.A. at U of A, Monique married Joseph Zezulka in 1967. They are living in London, Ontario where he teaches at Northwestern University. They have four children. Gwendolyn, Geoffrey, Gabrielle and Nicholas all attending French immersion schools. Monique is now taking refresher courses at the University in view of teaching.

Marie-Line was granted an R.N. diploma after a 3 year course in Vegreville hospital. She married Al Herfst in 1970 and they have two children, Christine and Heather. They live in Edmonton.

Remi is single and employed in the city.

Paul married Geraldine Mishio of Vegreville in 1977 and they have one daughter, Carrie. He operates Sahara Sandblasting and Painting in Edmonton.

Therese obtained her B.A. at College St. Jean and U of A and married Jean-Claude Bousquet in 1969. They live in Quebec City. Both work for the government of Quebec. They have a son, Jean Louis. Jean-Claude is single and employed in Edmonton. Michelle completed a secretarial course at Grant Mac Ewan College and married Etienne Couombe in 1977. They also live in Edmonton.



New barn being erected after the fire in summer of 61.

FATHER PAUL MAILLOUX

by Alice Mailloux (Lamoureux)

Father Paul Mailloux was born the 21st of November 1902, in Manchester, New Hampshire. His parents J.A. Mailloux and Eugenie (nee Tetreault) subsequently moved to Montreal where Paul received his primary education at the parish school of St. Jean de la Croix and at St. Alphonse D'Youville. At 12, he entered the Juvenat des Redemptoristes at St. Anne de Beaupré where he completed his secondary education and two years of novitiate. He left this institution for a stage at the "Grand Seminaire de Montreal" and then to the diocese of Sherbrooke where he was ordained to the priesthood in 1929.

He was supervisor of studies and professor of Latin at the Seminaire St. Charles in Sherbrooke, then he spent the next three years as vicar at the parish of La Patrie, County of Compton, Quebec. While there, he contracted pleurisy and on the advice of his doctor, came west to a drier climate. He spent several months recovering at the St. Louis Hospital in Bonnyville. In the spring of 1935, he accepted to be parish priest of Lafond, replacing Father Boucher. He was to share our joys, our hopes and also our sorrows, for the next 15 years.

As a newcomer — this was during the depression — he set his hands to many jobs with the help of Marie Anne Henley, for the first year and Bertha Jubinville for the following fourteen years as housekeepers. Like all of us, he cultivated a garden and tended to a lot of flowers and shrubs, split his own wood, made his own house improvements. With the help of his jigsaw, he made beautiful fretwork for the church, for his private chapel and for the rectory; lamps, chests, clocks, decorative edgings, tables, tabernacles, candlesticks etc. His artful decorations of the church sanctuary on feast days and special occasions are still to be remembered. Within the first five years, he added a living room to the rectory and had the whole building stuccoed.

One long lasting contribution was the initiation of the parishoners to the workings of a Credit Union in April, 1943. He gave a course, then presided at the elections of the officials. This was a most welcome initiative at a time when the effect of the depression were still being felt. He organized "Le Cercle des Fermières" then had an instructor give courses in sewing with prizes for best performance. In 1942, he invited Miss Boily, who was giving courses in weaving sponsored by the Searle Grain Co. Some 25 to 30 women attended and most of them bought the looms. The results showed up in handmade garments, house linens, floor mats, bedspreads etc. in many homes.

As entertainment, we had stage representations, plays such as Adonis, for one. Father supervised and coaxed the repetitions, the actors worked hard and the audiences appreciated the

results. He had Mr. Damase Bouvier of the Canadian Film Board, offer us some interesting motion pictures. We also had card parties, suppers, dances. All these brought recreation to the parish but also attained another goal — that of paying the debt on the church.

Apart from administering the sacraments and a large percentage of the population can claim to having been baptised and married by him — he visited the schools regularly, trained the altar boys, taught religion. He organized the Ladies of Ste. Anne.

The rectory was the stopping place for priests of the surrounding parishes. He was a deeply religious person and was sadly missed when he was called to take over the parish of Vimy, 1950.

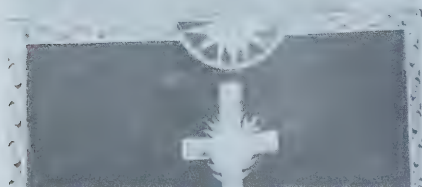
He left our parish but the Credit Union he sponsored lives on; the knowledge of weaving and sewing gained by all who had taken advantage of the courses offered, has been put to good use throughout the years; his beautiful fretwork is still here and much admired by all who see it; and the large, hand carved crucifix in the Lafond Church is still here to remind all of us of a very loving and devoted pastor, Father Paul Mailloux.



Rev. Father Paul Mailloux, standing in front of the Lafond Rectory
July, 1935.



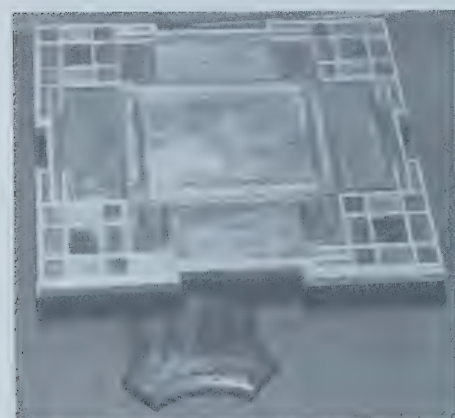
In the rectory chapel, all velvet and fretwork



Father Mailloux resting in his living room. Note the valance, the lamp and the table.



In the office.



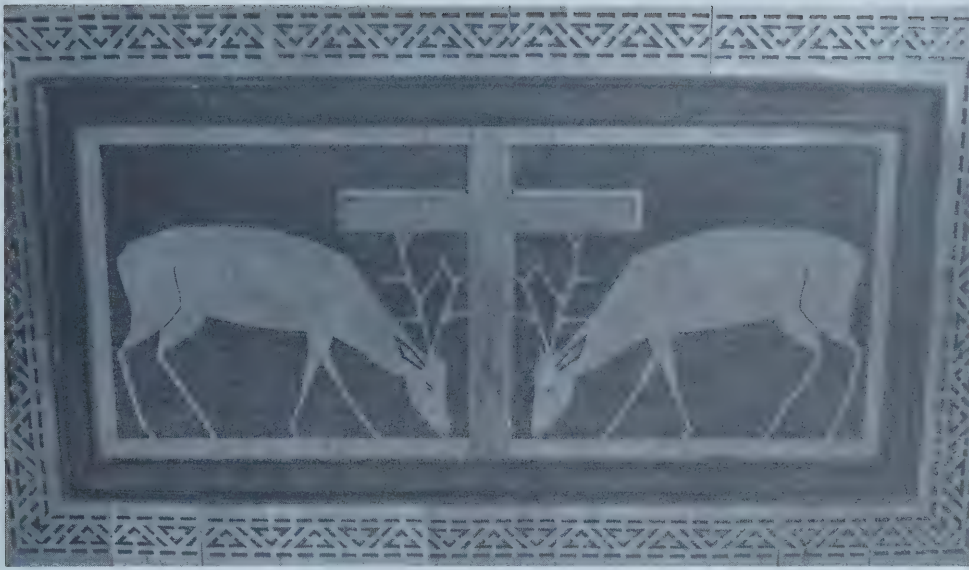
Small table used in the sanctuary of Lafond Church, also made by Father Paul Mailloux.

In Lafond Church, note the hand-carved curcifix, the candlesticks, the fretwork around the background.



Handmade Tabernacle.





Canopy over side altar, in Lafond Church, picture taken in 1981. This was hand-made by Father Paul Mailloux.



The interior of Lafond Church, showing the balcony, the ceiling, the beams and the rods that support the roof.



Main altar in Lafond Church made by Father Paul Mailloux during his stay in the parish, 1935-50. Picture taken in 1981.

OUTLINE SKETCH OF THE LIFE AND TRIALS OF THE MAKOWECKI FAMILY

as recollected by Walter Makowecki

The promise of *Free Land* and *Freedom* from the oppressive Austro-Hungarian Feudal Monarchy spread like wildfire through the villages of the Western Ukraine after the first Ukrainian emigrants, Ivan Pylypiw and Wasyl Eleniak made their first voyage of discovery to Canada in 1891. (It is most appropriate that this history of part of these immigrants who settled in Lac Bellevue is being written and published on the 90th anniversary of the coming of the first Ukrainians to Canada.) This news did not escape the village of Kotsyubintschi, in the Ternopol region where newly weds Mikhailo and Anna Makowecki were struggling to establish themselves in a new life. They were, as many others, inspired by this new promise.

Mikhailo Makowecki was born in 1878 of a poor serf family. He did not attend any school and was totally illiterate. In 1900 he married Anna Babi, sister of Reverend Stephen Babi, a young newly ordained Catholic priest. Anna did not enjoy education either because she was female and her destiny was to bring children into the world and look after the needs of her husband and family. And so it was that hers was a life of child-bearing and housekeeping. In 1902 their first-born Joseph arrived. Four years later Harry (Hrinko) was born.

Mikhailo was a proud young man and found it most humiliating to be dependent upon his in-laws for support and maintenance of his young family. He was independent. His pride and dignity urged him to become self-sufficient and fully accept his family responsibilities. He convinced his in-laws to lend him money for the trip to Canada where he would get his land and find his fortune in this new country. In 1907, Mikhailo arrived in Canada leaving behind him for the time-being his wife and two sons. So began the Canadian part of the Makowecki saga.

Like most Ukrainians, Mikhailo arrived in Winnipeg, the usual stopping off point for newly-arrived immigrants. Here he found some acquaintance who spoke his own language and with it some prospects for work. He started his Canadian career on the CPR extra gangs. Soon he found himself in Camrose, Alberta where he was permanently stationed on the section crew. Mikhailo was young and strong, a willing worker with high hopes of being soon reunited with his family. Within five years, in 1912, he had repaid his debt to his in-laws, had purchased a small home in Camrose, and had paid for the fare of his family to Canada.

What joy there was in April 1912 when Anna, Yosip (Joseph) and Harry arrived in Camrose. The party lasted till dawn. Joseph recalls that next morning he saw children at school across the street from their new home, so he took his old-country



1913 — Camrose Alberta. . . Mikhailo and Anna Makowecki with first Canadian born, John.

textbooks and ran to school. Joseph had attended two years of the church school in his village. He was being groomed for a Catholic priest on the urging of his Reverend uncle. The first Canadian born Makowecki came the next year in 1913. This was John. The future looked bright and promising. In 1914 Mary was born. Happiness reigned in the Makowecki household, especially when rumors of the possibility of war in Europe became the subject of daily conversation. How fortunate to be so far away from that horrible possibility and to escape those horrors! What a blessing, or was it?

Mikhailo Makowecki and many other Ukrainians from the Western Ukraine came to Canada on an Austrian passport and were regarded as citizens of Austria. When the first World War broke out in 1914, these people were considered enemy aliens, especially after the Catholic Bishop Buddka toured Canada embellishing the righteousness of the Austrian cause and appealed for the patriotic support of their native homeland, Austria, (sic!). The Conservative government of Sir Robert Borden answered Bishop Buddka's appeal by declaring all immigrants from Austro-Hungary enemy aliens. The far-away war did come to haunt these Ukrainians who had Austrian passports in spite of the distance!

It affected Mikhailo Makowecki and his family. He was given two choices — be interned in a concentration camp for enemy aliens, or — take out a homestead in Northern Alberta. He could no longer be a railroader. So it was that this illiterate immigrant who did not even know his own nationality, became a dangerous enemy and could no longer be trusted to work on the railroad. In the spring of 1915, Mikhailo sold his small home in Camrose, packed his family in a wagon and headed out for the homesteads of Northern Alberta. That spring he rented a small farm from a Mr. Melnyk, just south of Myrnam while he would look for his own homestead in the meantime. He put the crop in and staked out a homestead in Lac Bellevue, just north of the North Saskatchewan River. That home-



July 1925 Wedding picture of the double wedding.

stead is now the home of John Proskiw and John's house is located on the exact spot where Mikhailo built his first log house. There were now six in the family and Julia was about to appear on the scene. In the fall of 1915 Mikhailo and his family moved to the newly built house on the homestead in Lac Bellevue.

There was no road to the nearest railway at St. Paul then. The only access was a long round about way through Lafond. The other railway centre was Mannville or Vermilion. The CPR to Myrnam was not to come until 1927. One of the conditions of FREEDOM on the homesteads was that each month Mikhailo would report to the nearest RCMP 'detachment as to his whereabouts and his activities. This meant trips to Vermilion usually by horse or on foot. Both methods were used.

Mikhailo purchased a team of horses, a wagon, a walking plow, and six heifers with the money he received for his home in Camrose. The rest was spent to buy windows, shingles and lumber for his home. By "old-country" standards he was now a "pan" (Landlord); he owned 160 acres of land, a lot of bush. He would fish freely in the North Saskatchewan River which was only a half mile away (and he did fish regularly, fish was dried and salted and became the main course of the family diet). He had horses and cattle — his hopes were once again high. He cleared land with his two older sons, a slow and tedious job. Ten or twelve acres would be cleared during the first year. In the fall, Mikhailo and his son Joseph would go to the Mannville - Vermilion district to earn money during harvest. This would provide the much needed cash. During the winter they would cut firewood in places where the next land clearing was to be done the following year. In 1916, Joseph joined an extra-gang at Mannville to help supplement the family income. This did not appear to be to Joseph's liking as he lasted only four months with this job. He joined a CNR bridge building construction crew in the spring of 1917 where he stayed for the next eight years. In the meantime Mikhailo was raising his herd of cat-

tle. In 1917, improvements to the homestead had met the Land Titles office requirements and Mikhailo received clear title to his land. He staked out the next homestead in Harry's name immediately.

1919 was the year of the famous drought which caught most of Alberta and Saskatchewan by surprise. Mikhailo was tempted to sell part of his cattle herd but was convinced by a bank manager that he had a gold-mine in that herd. "Borrow money from us for feed and keep that gold-mine", said the banker. And Mikhailo obeyed. Straw bales from the USA were picked up at Mannville at the price of \$70 per ton. The quality was so poor that combined with a most bitterly cold and extended spring, half the cattle died, and the other barely survived. Now Mikhailo had a lien against his clear title, and back to where he had started with his herd in 1915. The elusive "gold-mine" the banker had promised was faltering. His family also kept growing. They were now nine.

Mikhailo undauntedly continued his master plan — a farm for every son! In 1923, he persuaded Joseph to file claim on a homestead not too far away. This homestead is now owned by William Borchuk. Joe would continue working on the bridge crews while Mikhailo, Harry and the rest of the family would clear enough land to obtain clear title to the land. Harry was less fortunate than Joe. In the village of Kotsyubintsi he was too young to attend school. In Camrose the possibility of attending school was cut short by the War Measures Act of Sir Robert Borden. In Lac Bellevue there was no school when they arrived. Harry was destined for a life of illiteracy. So he stayed home and helped with the land clearing, harvesting, and working as a laborer.

As stated earlier, Joe worked on the bridge building crews. His fellow traveller and often mentor was Fred Hawryluk, a family man who left his young wife on the homestead with their young children, and worked to support them. He came home for short visits only once or twice a year. Joe often recalled their experiences on the way to work, long walking distances, hunger and cold. Fred would express his unhappiness at being separated from his family and his longing for the old country. They were sometimes accompanied by George Boratynec and his father.

Joe had one weakness when he worked on the bridge crews. He could not stay away from poker. His friends pleaded with him to give up the "hope-for big win" explaining that the odds were not in his favor, but young Joe would not listen. When pay day came, Joe would send home a token sum of money, and hit for the poker bunk with the balance of his pay. In short shrift he would be relieved of his pay and this began a waiting period of seclusion until next pay day. When this in-between period came, another acquaintance from Lac



1972 — Picture taken at the 70th birthday party for Joe Makowecki.

Bellevue, John Burak, would plead with Joe to read the newspaper or novel to him, since John was illiterate. One day after an extremely bad streak of losing in the poker shack, John besieged Joe to read to him. In a particularly bad mood Joe told him to learn to read for himself. To this John Burak, knowing that Joe had lost everything and was badly in need of money asked Joe to teach him to read offering to pay for lessons. This Joe agreed to do and John Burak became a literate man in the Ukrainian language. He could now read for himself. Having freed himself from the demands to read to fellow workers, Joe had to find other outlets for his spare time between pay days. This was consumed by political discussions, the conditions of work, and other social topics. The first Socialist Revolution in Russia in October 1917 occupied much of their discussions. It was a new phenomenon and on the mind of every worker, especially the Slavic workers who had close kinship with their mother country. This was an important period in the development of Joe's social, philosophical and political outlook and the basis for his future involvement in the affairs of the community.

In 1925, after a bad losing streak at poker, combined with failure to get a promotion which he had anticipated, Joe gave up bridge building as a career and returned home to Lac Bellevue. On July 7, 1925 he and Antonia Berezanski were married. It was a double wedding in the Berezanski family; the next day Joe and Annie Berezanski (Deputan) were married. They built their log home, a family effort, and

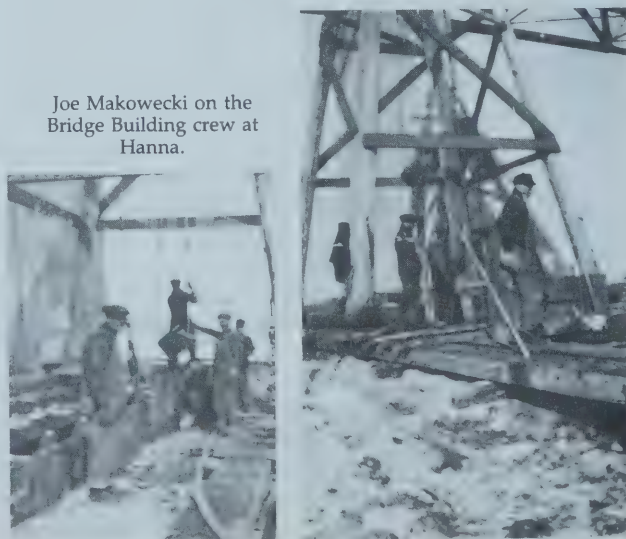
when harvest time rolled around, Joe and Harry with their team and bundle wagon took off for the harvest so as to earn money with which to purchase the door and windows necessary to finish their new home. This was the beginning of a long and close partnership and cooperation between Joe and Harry which was to last throughout their farming days in Lac Bellevue.

In 1926, Joe set out to improve his economic situation with high hopes. He rented every available cultivated acre of land in his neighborhood, which totalled approximately 90 acres. He purchased seed and put the crop in with high expectations. This writer was born June 1, 1926 and Joe recalled that on that day he sowed some green feed which did not sprout and grow until mid-September. That was another drought but not as wide spread as the 1919 drought. Joe did not even get back enough crop to replace the seed he had purchased in the spring. As far as I can remember this was the first and last time that Joe ever rented land.

If the drought had created hardships for Joe and Antonia, that was nothing compared to the hardships it created for Grandfather Mikhailo. Since 1919 his difficulties compounded. Baby Magdeline died at birth; twins Peter and Paul were born; Paul died at birth and Peter died seven years later of pneumonia; he was unable to liquidate the debt he had incurred in 1919 to purchase feed for his "gold-mine", and now it was certain foreclosure.

Mikhailo was undaunted. He would solve his dilemma by moving to a farm just eight miles south of St. Paul, Alberta. This farm had a house on it and a lot of hay land. Never again would he suffer in case of drought. After all, his troubles were caused by drought in the first place. This time he would overcome! He passed on his homestead to Harry with debts included. He now solved two problems at one stroke. Harry had two homesteads and he would have a farm with a lot of hay on it.

Joe Makowecki on the Bridge Building crew at Hanna.





Myrnam Municipal Hospital 1938.

He had in his own way reconciled his recent difficulties.

The new location was popular with many travellers who journeyed to St. Paul for their requirements. In the cold winter, coming from St. Paul, many would stop to warm up and Grandma Makowecki would always have some Kapusniak or Borsch and Perohe to help warm them up. Many farmers from Glendon used this place as a stopover on their way to Weibe's Flour Mill in Myrnam. The Berezanski's farm was also quite popular with these people. In 1927, Mikhailo's house burned down. All the passports, titles and agreements burned along with it. A temporary living quarters was built which was not replaced until 1938.

When Joe came back to settle down in Lac Bellevue in 1925, there were already two schools in the district. In the southern part was Henley School and in the Northern part was Lac Canard School. Henley was named after the first French Canadian settler in the district and Lac Canard was also a French Canadian name. Between these schools stood the community hall, in which was located a branch of the Ukrainian Labor Farmer Temple Association, which was formed in Winnipeg in 1922. Already there were active members of the ULFTA in the persons of William and Dan Halina, John Petruk, Harry Eskow, Nick Paziuk, Ignace Gadowsky, Mike Gadowsky, George Kaszewski and others. Some like Harry Eskow had brought to the district working-class consciousness from the mines where they worked. This group became the nucleus and leadership of the community. Joe became a member of this organization upon his return to the district. In 1926 they agreed to nominate William Halina as a candidate to municipal council of Laurier. Young Bill was easily elected and became the first English speaking member of the council.

The schools had also brought some of the first Ukrainian school teachers to the district. Among

the first was Nikola Buck (pronounced book) and William Teresio who followed him. Nikola Buck organized the first orchestra at the ULFTA Hall. Both Buck and Teresio had come from Lanuke, near Two Hills, Alberta where Social Democratic clubs had existed since 1908 and brought with them socialist ideas. They also initiated the first school concerts in the district which became a tradition, to be followed by their successors. The condition of employment in these schools was that each year the teacher in addition to teaching eight grades, and do janitor work, would also prepare one or two concerts or plays to be given to the public at the hall, at Christmas and Easter. This tradition was followed by teachers Thomas Chrapko, William Porayko, Katherine Holyk, Mary Pawlyk (Gadowski), Nancy Shemeluck, Rose Bagan until the schools were closed. There was a sort of competition between the schools to see which presented the better program. It also filled the cultural needs of the period before the advent of radio and television.

The railway came to Myrnam in 1927. In 1928 William Halina sold his farm to Andrew Gadowsky and moved to Myrnam to operate a Ford dealership and service garage. Wheat prices were good and the newly broken land was producing good yields of wheat. William had to be replaced on council. Joseph Makowecki was chosen as a candidate for council and in 1929 he was elected to council at the request of his peers. He took his responsibilities seriously. The meetings were still conducted in French and he participated through the interpreters Letourneau and the secretary-treasurer Montambeault. Joe had been a founding member of the Alberta Wheat Pool and supported the UFA provincial government of that time. So did Letourneau who helped them to get along on council in a friendly manner. The council changed to English sometime in 1930 when other non-French councillors were elected from the Armistice and Lake Eliza districts.

From 1929 to 1948 Joe was totally absorbed in community affairs. In addition to being a councillor, he was also the secretary-treasurer of Henley School district #1357 until 1938 when the larger school districts were formed; he was a director of the Myrnam Livestock Shipping Cooperative; a director of the Myrnam Cooperative Association; and in 1936 was a board member of the Myrnam Municipal Hospital. With the exception of two years from 1935 to 1937, he was on the municipal council continuously. Due to a serious illness of Entonia, these two years were filled in by Harry Eskow. The Myrnam Municipal Hospital was officially opened in 1937. Had it not been for the availability and cooperation of Joe's brothers Harry, John, Mike and Dmaytro, Joe could not have taken on the heavy responsibilities of all these offices.



Threshing the last crop at Lac Bellevue 1947.

This writer fondly remembers the first Makowecki wedding attended in May 1930. I remember the democrats and the white horses; John Zacharko, another uncle of mine, playing the drums. But most of all I remember the wedding because it was my first taste of something new and delightful — bologna. It was a double wedding; Harry Makowecki and Bessie Zuk were married as were William Petruk and Mary Makowecki. After they came from church there was an outdoor meal and dance at the hall. I must have fallen asleep because I do not remember much more of the wedding. After all I was four years old. William Petruk had just returned from the mines of Drumheller, East Coulee, Cadomin and Luscar. The depression had hit and much like Joe Makowecki in 1925, he came back for refuge on the farm. He and Mary settled in the southern part of the district in close proximity to Harry and Joe.

In 1933, Joe and Harry Makowecki, Fred Hawryluk and Steve Prockiwi joined together to purchase a threshing outfit with one hundred dollars down. This partnership lasted until 1945, when changes in farming methods demanded more utilization of tractor power which one unit could not produce at the right time for the convenience of all. 1933 was also another year for Makowecki weddings. John Makowecki married Rosie Gadowski and Dan and Julia Petrosky were married one week later. John and Rosie settled on a farm just one mile east of Lac Bellevue hall while Dan and Julie made their home on a farm which is now the site of the Linkewich Mobile Home Park. The original log house built by Dan and Julia is still on the site and in use today.

In 1935 the depression was still taking its toll; Social Credit was promising \$25 per month. An election was in full swing in July. At the Ukrainian Hall, technocracy was showing picture slides during its campaign one Sunday. Outside the hall Mike Maksymiuk was campaigning for Social Credit. The most terrible hail storm hit the district that Sunday. The roof of Maksymiuk's Model A with its signs

was torn off. And so were all the crops in the district. That evening we arrived at Grandfather's on our way to St. Paul. Grandma was crying her eyes out while putting out pots and pans in their temporary living quarters where the hail had broken the shingles. I shall never forget the torment within her. Gone was their precious hay and grain crops. Another series of equipment seizures and loss of cattle and horses. Once again Mikhailo's plans were foiled by nature and the depression. This setback began to take a toll of his health. The doctor diagnosed poisoning of his digestive system from bad dental health. The cure was probably worse than the ailment. His teeth were totally removed, and he could not afford false ones either. The action did not arrest his deteriorating health. Future diagnosis showed he had a severe case of diabetes.

His family quickly became adults. Mike Jr. married Leona Krissa in 1939 and settled on a farm across from the home place. In 1942, Dmaytro who had volunteered for army services and had been discharged earlier in the year because of medical unfitness married Mary Rawluk. They bought a farm from Roy Semeniuk which was in the same section as Mike Jr.'s farm. In 1946 Stella Makowecki was married to Joe Linkewich and later they both bought the farm from Dan Petrosky.

One month after the wedding, Mikhailo was taken ill and rushed to St. Paul Hospital where gangrene had set in his foot. By the time he was taken to University Hospital in Edmonton his foot had to be amputated above the knee to arrest the gangrene. On January 14, 1947, Mikhailo passed away. Steve had refinanced the purchase of the family farm in 1944, and Bill was the owner of a farm which was purchased for him from Eugene Milan. Grandfather passed away with the knowledge that each son had a farm. In 1949 Steve Makowecki married Annie Dolynny of Bonnyville and in 1951 Bill Makowecki married Mona Connor of St. Brides.

In the meantime the second generation of Makoweckis was growing up. Joe and Entonia had a family of six by 1937. One infant daughter had passed away in 1928, three weeks after birth. Another addition, Darwin was to come in 1951. Education was the necessity of the time. After the election of the Socreds in 1935, Aberhart's provincial government proposed enlarged school districts for better education. Joe Makowecki along with the other leading personalities in the area saw this as an opportunity to provide the means of higher education for their growing families. They encouraged the local school districts to merge with others to form the larger units. In 1938, Beela, Henley and Lake Eliza school districts joined the Two Hills School District. A new addition to the Henley school in 1939 made it possible for this writer and three others to get their Grade nine at home. The



Last picture of Joe and son Walter May 1976.

other three were Walter Halina, Anne Poloway (Halina) and Stephania Procki (Zalasky). We were also able to enroll at the Myrnam High School the following year without any tuition fees by our parents.

As mentioned earlier the Myrnam Municipal Hospital opened in 1937. An active Hospital Board was enthusiastic about the new services. In 1942, the board composed of Lloyed Lesnik, Wm. Terecio, Basil Berezanski, Joseph Makowecki and another person I cannot recall, were instrumental in introducing in the Myrnam Municipal Hospital District, which included the southern part of Lac Bellevue, the first comprehensive medicare system in Canada. The Board came to an agreement with Dr. P.P. Kaye (Koshowski) for a salary of \$8,000. In the first year he would provide surgery free of charge to all ratepayer patients. He was allowed to charge extra for office visits. The charge was \$1.00 for pulling a tooth and \$1.00 for an examination in his office. The patient would pay \$2.00 per day while in hospital. The ratepayers paid an extra 1.5 mills on their assessment with their municipal taxes for these all — inclusive services. I know that Joe Makowecki (my father) was extremely proud of this achievement. Dr. Kaye who despised administrative bookkeeping was also happy. He received his salary regularly without fail.

Large municipal districts were also formed in the early 1940's. This move enabled the municipalities to change from menial horse power for road building to heavy industrial road building equipment. The St. Paul Municipal District was the first municipality in Alberta to own its own road construction equipment. This was in spite of the fact

that the district had a huge sub-marginal low assessment which did not provide revenues necessary for the provision of road and other services in a very difficult terrain — mostly hills, marshes and rock.

Municipal and community work were synonymous with the Makowecki family. While Joe was the elected official representing the district or division's needs, others did some municipal work. In 1936 with the outbreak of the dreaded sleeping sickness in horses, (encephalomyelitis) Dmaytro took a course at the Vermilion School of Agriculture to provide vaccination services against the disease; from 1941 to 1946 Mike Makowecki served as land assessor. During the thirties John Makowecki served as weed inspector in the district. Harry was often a road building foreman, and when he broke his arm in 1934, the task fell to William Petruk.

The second World War created new social and manpower shortages for everyone in the district. The war effort and enlistments had taken the surplus manpower out of the district. Some were in the army, others were in the mines and plants, and others were moving to the urban areas to improve their standard of living. The urgency for mechanization became the order of the day. And each individual solved his problem in his own way. So did the Makoweckis. In 1943 John Makowecki joined his neighbors and formed the Lake Eliza Coop Farm. The group included the Halina Bros., John, Joe and Walter; (Steve was overseas in the army) Mike and Peter Paziuk; Peter and Eddie Rawluk and perhaps others. The idea was to make the best use of available equipment by using it more constantly. In theory it seemed a good idea. In practice it was premature. There were no skills in management or job detailing and specification. Nor was there any assistance from government circles. After eighteen months, the coop farm folded. The land which was purchased for headquarters for the farm was taken over by John Makowecki. It was the Dupre farm in Lake Eliza. Thus began the first migration of Makoweckis from Lac Bellevue. Even though it was only to Lake Eliza, it still was the beginning.

In 1946 three of the Makowecki clan made their moves. William and Mary Petruk (Makowecki) moved to the Ranfurly district. Their farm was purchased by Peter Hawryluk. Mike Makowecki sold his farm to Steve Tymko and he moved to the Viking district. Dan and Julia Petrosky moved to the Lake Alice district just south of Innisfree. They sold their farm in 1947 to Joe and Stella Linkewich. In 1947 Harry Makowecki had an auction sale and in partnership with his brother-in-law Paul Malech they purchased the Beauvallon Hotel. The farm was later sold to Trifon Arychuk who rented to John Procki for some time and then was purchased by John. That same fall in 1947, Joe Makowecki sold

his farm to William Borchuk and in the spring moved to the Ranfurly district. This forced the resignation of Joe from Municipal Council and the position was filled by Stanley A. Gadowski. In 1949 Dmaytro Makowecki left the farm and moved to Edmonton to take employment as a carpenter. In 1957 he entered the Real Estate business and is in that occupation till today. In 1950, John and Rosie Makowecki purchased a small store in Bonnyville, Alberta. Their farm was operated by Bill Makowecki until 1956. At that time John sold the farm to Willie Prockiwi. In 1953, Steve and Annie Makowecki purchased a farm at Ranfurly, Alberta in partnership with Walter Makowecki. In 1956 Mike and Leona Makowecki sold their farm at Viking, Alberta and moved to Edmonton, where in partnership with Walter Makowecki, they operated a service station. Steve had purchased the interest held in the farm by Walter in 1957. In 1956 Bill Makowecki and wife Mona moved to Edmonton. That left only Stella Linkewich as the only descendent of Mikhailo and Anna Makowecki residing in Lac Bellevue.

"Time marches on and waits for no one," so said an old philosopher. So it was with the Joe Makowecki family. One by one they started leaving their nest and began the making of new ones. In 1953 Mary and Metro Rybak were married. They made their home in Two Hills, Alberta. As stated previously, Walter left the farm in 1956 and started in the service station business in Edmonton and after several business starts, in 1972 established Heritage Foods Ltd. which manufactures under the CHEEMO trademark, perogy, cabbage rolls and borsch. Walter is married and with his wife Eileen have four children. In 1957 Mabel and Victor Yaremicio were married. They operate a grain and hog farm with Mabel doing substitute teaching when her services are required. Olga married Peter Bojchko of Winnipeg in 1959. She teaches school in Edmonton while her husband Peter farms at Bon Accord. Roy married Jeannette Uhryn in 1960. He is the only member of the Joe Makowecki family actively engaged in farming. The youngest, Darwin and his wife Olivia reside in Calgary where they are both employed with engineering firms.

Joe Makowecki had always been close to his friends and neighbors at Lac Bellevue. He felt he was a part of the community. He had made a difficult decision to move from the district only in the best interest of his young growing family. He would have much rather preferred to stay at Lac Bellevue and continue living among his own people. So in 1961 after most of his family had left the nest, Joe and Antonia together with sons Edward and Darwin decided they would like to move back to St. Paul. There they operated a business which was known as Adam's and Joe's Tire and Implement Sales Ltd. Joe was happy to be back amongst his former associates. Unfortunately, an accident

on September 16, 1963 took the life of Antonia instantly. They were coming home to St. Paul from Edmonton where there had been a preview of a new 1964 model of Ramblers for which they had a dealership. Joe and Antonia were both in the back seat singing their favorite song, "Divlious ya na nebo, tye dumku hadayou" (Translated, I gaze at the heavens and thoughtfully meditate) when suddenly the accident happened just six miles west of St. Paul. Joe's heart was not with the business anymore after this tragic event. In 1967 he moved to Edmonton to be within closer reach of his children. His son Darwin lived with Metro and Mary Rybak at Two Hills until graduating from High School. Edward also disposed of his interests in the business and worked for the CNR as a stationmaster until 1976 when he joined his brother Walter in the food processing business. If the 1950's were joyous years for the Makowecki family, 1963 was a sad one. It began with the passing of Grandma Anna Gadowski (Makowecki) on January 6, 1963, followed by Antonia in September 1963 and then in December of the same year William Petruk passed away, a victim of leukemia.

On April 6, 1973, Mike Makowecki passed away at the age of 56. He was first of the Makowecki family to pass away. On October 16, 1976 the eldest Joseph passed away suddenly while doing some repair work on his home. Ten days later, on October 26, 1976, the youngest son of Mikhailo and Anna passed away after a long illness. Bill was the victim of leukemia. There are still seven survivors of the first family of Makowecki. They are Harry, John, Mary, Julia, Dmaytro, Steve and Stella. The family survived many trying times in the early pioneer days of Northern Alberta. They made their contribution to its development so that we may all enjoy a better life as a result of their sacrifices.

This chronology of events in the lives of the Makowecki family indicated the many events which shaped their future lives. Events beyond their personal control, many miles away had altered the way they made their living. The fact that a part of the Ukraine was under the domination of a foreign power affected them. Had they been emigrants to Canada as Ukrainians they would have in all probability stayed urban residents in Camrose, Alberta. They would have had access to education and that by itself could have altered the way they made and earned their livelihood. As events indicate, not all Makoweckis were devout farmers at heart. In fact the opposite is true. Whenever opportunity knocked, they eagerly took up the challenges of business ventures so that today of the seven brothers in the initial family only one remains a farmer throughout his working lifetime. In Joe's family the same is true. In Harry's and John's it is also true that their only sons chose not to farm.

It is also a fact of life that the economic depres-

sion of the thirties had a profound effect on the family. The necessity to survive on meagre incomes forced the family to cooperate and help each other as best they could. This made the family a closely knit unit. It gave them the experience and ability to work with others. That experience served them well in their new endeavours later in life.

Lac Bellevue, Alberta was essentially the training ground for the entire Makowecki family. It gave them experience, insight, and an ability to tackle the most difficult tasks with optimism. The family is much better off because they were a product of the community of Lac Bellevue. One must look back nostalgically at this formative period in the lives of the family.

JOHN AND ROSIE MAKOWECKI

John is the third son of Michael and Annie Makowecki and first Canadian born. He was born in Camrose, Alberta, March 2nd, 1913. John was four years old when the family moved and settled in Lac Bellevue district. John grew up there and attended Henley School. At the age of fourteen, John quit school so he could help his father who was not well to do the farm work.

In 1932, John's Dad bought a farm (during hard times). He gave a down payment of \$75.00 and the rest went on yearly payments.

That winter John went and got some logs and the following summer, he built a house on his farm.

Rosie is a third child of Michael and Apolonia Gadowski. She was born March 27th, 1917, and grew up in Lac Bellevue and attended Lac Canard School.

John and Rosie got married in 1934 and went to live on their farm. They started farming with 5 horses, 2 cows, 2 sows, a few chickens and a gang



Rosie and John Makowecki with their children Regina and Louis.
Picture taken at their Lac Bellevue farm.

plow, which was given to them by their parents. There still was no well on the farm and they had to carry water from their neighbour Dan Halina until the well was dug. Also, with the help of John's brother-in-law, Bill Petruk, a barn was built the following year.

In years to follow, more land was broken, but still could not make enough money to make the payments on the farm. So John decided to go to work.

By now, they had two children, Louis and Regina. In the fall of 1941, leaving Rosie and children on the farm, John went to work in Sudbury, Ontario as a carpenter in a copper mine. He made some money to pay for the farm, but had to come home to put the crop in next spring.

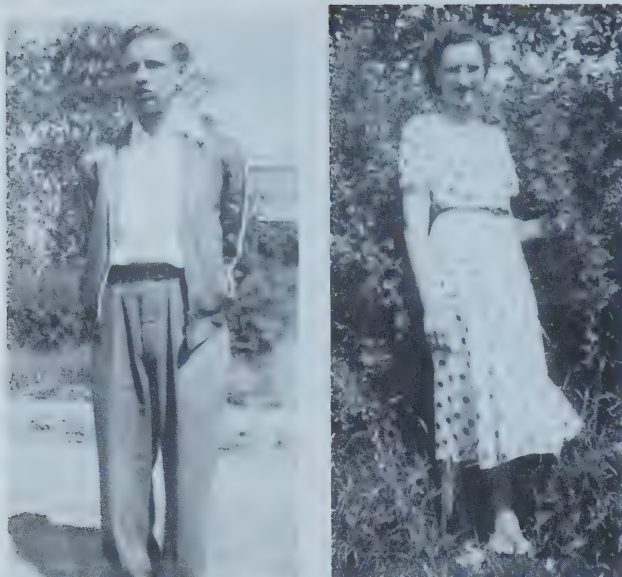
The following fall John went to work in Vancouver and got a job in a Frazer Mill. There, he made enough money to pay the balance of the farm payments. From then on, John stayed home with the family and both worked on this farm until 1944, then sold it to Pet Gotsik.

In 1945, they bought three quarters of land in Lake Eliza, Alberta with a little old house on it. There, they lived for 2 years. In 1947, with Andrew Petruk's help, John built a new home.

Work on the farm was hard and Rosie always talked about moving into town and doing something that was not as hard as farming. In 1950, John and Rosie moved to Bonnyville, Alberta and bought themselves a General Store. Their farms were



John and Rosie Makowecki



Louis and Regina Makowecki.

rented to John's brother Bill. Five years later, this land was sold to Willie Proskiw.

In 1955, John and Rosie purchased another building in Bonnyville and leased it to MacLeods Ltd. In 1962, they had another building built and moved into it with their business. This was called "Makowecki's Solo Store".

In 1967, they sold their business and in 1970, they transferred the buildings to their son Louis who works with the CN and lives in Edmonton, Alberta.

Regina married Steve Grotski and has two children, Wayne and Marie and are living in Edmonton.

John and Rosie are still living in Bonnyville, both retired, and are spending their summers at their cabin at Moose Lake.

ANNA AND MIKE MAKSYMIUK

by Russ Paziuk

Anna, the eldest daughter of Sam and Helen Burak, Sr. was born in 1898 in Louov, Ukraine. In 1916, she married Mike Maksymiuk (born in 1896) who in 1914, had taken a homestead in the Lac Bellevue district (quarter section N.W. 26-55-9-4).

The family left the homestead in 1920 and moved to St. Paul where he became employed by the railroad. He then built a livery barn in St. Paul, then a General Store which the family operated until 1928. Mike next became a partner in the real estate business with Steve Suvela and operated this into the depression years. His building of the hotel in Therien became a disappointment when he could not get an operating permit. Because of this, the hotel was moved to Glendon where he made it operational. He entertained the thought of farming, and purchased a farm in the Therien district and

farmed until 1946. Between the different businesses he had started, he was able to become an auctioneer. Later in life, he retired from farming, and with his son Roy, moved to Edmonton and became involved in the real estate business for the second time.

Anna and Mike Maksymiuk had a family of six; three boys and three girls. They lost two boys as infants, with the remaining children being: Olga (Mrs. Wildred Sopchyshyn), living in Edmonton; Roy Maksymiuk living in Edmonton; Annie (Mrs. Albert Flatton), deceased; Stella (Mrs. Anderson), living in Iowa, U.S.A. Anna and Mike Maksymiuk are presently living in Edmonton, Alberta.

MALECH FAMILY

by Dan Malech

The new-comers to Lac Bellevue, Paul Malech, wife Lessie and their son Daniel arrived at Lac Bellevue District in the spring of 1929, from Gleichen, Alberta where Paul was an employee of the C.P.R. and in his spare time worked for the local farmers.

At Lac Bellevue, they purchased the southwest quarter of Section 17, Range 9, Township 56, West 4 Meridian from Mr. Gouin which was formerly owned by the Donat Notel family. The purchase was made by a down payment, balance to be paid yearly. It took them ten long years to pay for it with the last payment being made in the fall of 1939.

In 1930, they had a bumper crop but due to the depression, the wheat prices were as low as 17¢ a bushel. The threshing bill was 9¢ a bushel, so 8¢ was all that was left from the sweat and toil for the summer months.

Also in the fall of 1930, their new son Walter had arrived which increased the family to four.

On July 28th, 1935, a severe hail storm hit the area which took a strip about six miles wide in its passage and wiped out most of the crops 100%. Due to the late date of the storm, very little feed was recovered later that fall. To be able to have enough feed to winter the livestock, Paul traded a cow and some chickens with the natives in Saddle Lake for hay. It took him two days to bring in one load of hay from Duck Lake, one day to drive there, spend the night with the natives and next morning, load the hay and drive back home. That winter Paul also had to haul straw for feed from the Foisy, Brosseau farmers, wherever some was available. The price usually was a cord of firewood.

1935 was the hardest year for most families in that area. Even the school was closed for the 1935/36 school term. The district was unable to hire a school teacher due to lack of funds and unpaid taxes.

In 1936/37, the crops were partially destroyed by hail.

Also that year, due to the shortage of cash



The Malech Family. House at Lac Bellevue. Mrs. Malech left Mr. Malech 2nd to left, with few friends.

money, most families were forced on relief which was \$10.00 per month for a family of four. Next summer every penny of relief had to be paid back to the municipality. Paul used to take four horses and go out working on the road-gang building local roads. Eight horses were needed to pull the road-grader or four horses on the frezno or dirt bucket.

The boys, Dan and Walter attended the Lac Bellevue School which was built on the northwest corner on southwest quarter, Section 24, Range 10, Township 56, west 4th meridian and was over $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles from home. This distance they walked in spring and fall and in winter, drove a horse and cutter. In summer, all the horses were used for field work.

In the thirties, the grain and livestock for market had to be hauled to St. Paul or Myrnam. St. Paul was sixteen miles away and Myrnam was over twenty miles. Most farmers also had their own wheat ground into flour at the local flour mills. In those days, there were no trucks and roads were poor. All the field work was done by horses at times with two teams with the help of hired neighbour boys.

Most of the community socializing took place in homes and in the Lac Bellevue community hall, which was 3 miles to the east. The hall also was the hub for local gatherings such as dances, concerts, bazaars, shows and picnics. Tessie took part in singing with the local chorus and also sang solo. Her brother Andrew Zuk also took part in some drama plays.

Some community picnics were also held on the southeast side of Lac Bellevue Lake. The local schools all had their yearly Christmas concerts,

which was a great family outing, especially for parents to see their childrens' talent. The Lac Bellevue Post Office also was a gathering place mostly for youngsters on Saturday afternoons when they went to pick up the mail which came in only once a week from Lafond.

In 1937, Paul purchased another quarter of land which was across the road northwest 8, Township 56, Range 9, W4th meridian. In 1942, the family saved enough money with which Paul made a down payment on his first tractor, an Oliver 70 which at that time was worth \$1,277.65. That fall he formed a partnership with Mr. John Zaharko and went out threshing for the neighbours. Next fall Paul bought his own used threshing machine, that was the beginning of the mechanized age for the Malech Family.

In the fall of 1944, Paul purchased a half section of land from Isaac Belland in St. Edouard, sold his Lac Bellevue property to Fred Paziuk and John Paley and the family moved on.

JOHN AND MARIA MALEK

by Josie Harmatiuk

Mr. John Malek was born in Poland on February 27th, 1896; he served for seven years with the Cov-alay during the First World War.

Maria Malek (Kotowich) was also born in Poland on January 17th, 1901. John and Maria were married in Poland on January 26th, 1925; they lived there for a number of years and three of their children were born there; Walter, Betty and Josie.

They heard of the new land Canada for some-time and decided to come out to seek their fortune.



John and Maria Malek upon arrival in Canada May 18, 1927 with two of their children Walter and Josie.



Attendance at a Catholic Church Service at the farm of Mr. and Mrs. Nick Linkiewich in the early 1940's. Back row standing from left to right: John Milan, Unknown, Eugene Milan, Mr. Berezanski, Nick Linkiewich, Peter Slywka, John Malek, Tony Ostropolski, Mr. Rarog, Ed Ostropolski, Emile Linkiewich, Walter Malek. Sitting top row left to right: Mary Milan and son Frank, Mrs. Ushchyshyn, Mrs. Berezanski, Mrs. N. Linkiewich, Maria Malek, Maria Ostropolski, Mrs. Rarog, Mrs. Lukenchuk, Aniela Kotowich. Sitting on the ground from left to right: Johnny Milan, Anne Kotowich, Betty Malek, Jean Malek, Josie Kotowich, Valerie Malek, Walter and Frank Kotowich, Josie Malek.

They arrived here on May 18th, 1927 with two of their three children, Walter and Josie. Betty was left in Poland and she was to follow with relatives providing her parents liked Canada and would stay here. Stay they did and in 1929, Betty came to Canada with her Uncle Lladislaw and Aunt Aniela Kotowich to rejoin her parents, sister and brother.

When the Maleks came to Canada, Maria went to work at the farm of Tony and Mary Niedzelski at Flat Lake, Alberta and John worked as a carpenter helper in and around the town of St. Paul, Alberta.

In the fall of 1927, they rented a quarter of land southeast of St. Paul, (N.E. 3-56-9) now owned by Wilhelm (Bill) Rath. There was a two storey log cabin on the place so they moved into the upper storey as the main floor was run over by garter snakes which they had to destroy by spilling barrels of hot water over the floor.

Two of their children were born in this cabin; Mike in 1929 and Jean in 1933. While farming this quarter, John also worked part time as a carpenter in the Myrnam area walking to and from work. He built log buildings, some of which are still standing today. During the winter, John and Maria cut down trees and prepared them for the next summers buildings; in this way they earned enough money to take a homestead N.W. 35-56-9 and buy the adjoining quarter N.E. 35-56-9. There was no home on these quarters so they lived on N.E. 3-56-9, while working their homestead, then in 1934, they

bought a quarter of land from T. Dull N.E. 27-56-9 which had a home on it and was close enough to the Lac Canard School where their children attended classes.

In the summer of 1936, their crops were completely destroyed by hail and on October 14th, 1936, their youngest daughter Valerie was born. Once again, times were hard after the hail storm but they managed and in 1939, they bought another quarter of land from Frank and Annie Yedlenski, S.W. 34-56-9. They farmed in the Lac Canard district for a number of years, then in 1945, sold the N.E. 27-56-9 and S.W. 34-56-9 to G. Thoben (the homestead and adjoining quarters they sold a few years later), bought a three quarter section of land west of the town of Vermilion where they farmed until their retirement into the town of Vermilion.

Once again in 1964, the Maleks were on the move this time to Vancouver, B.C. where they bought two houses; one they lived in that is on Kingsway and the other in Burnaby they rented out, but much to their disappointment, the weather in B.C. did not agree with them so they sold their property there and in February, 1973, returned to Vermilion, Alberta, buying a home there. About the time of their move back to Vermilion, Maria's health started to fail and on August 3rd, 1976, she passed away. John still lives in his own home during the summer and at the Senior Citizens Home during the winter.

Following are the children of John and Maria



Malek Family Jan. 26, 1975 at the 50th anniversary of John and Maria. L-R: Josie, Betty, Maria and John, Mike, Jean, Valerie, missing is Walter.

Malek:

Walter — born in Poland, September, 1922, served on Home Defence during the Second World War, married Helen Tembeck of London, Ontario, making his home in London where he is a Heavy Duty Mechanic. They have a family of five girls and a boy.

Betty — born in Poland on January 17th, 1926, married Casey Ostropolski. They are farming a section of land north of Vermilion, Alberta. They have a family of three boys.

Josie — born in Poland on February 14th, 1927, married Alex Harmatiuk. They farmed at Lac Bellevue area for a number of years and now live in St. Paul. They have a family of two girls and two boys.

Mike — born at Lac Canard, Alberta on August 27th, 1929, married Mary Dymotarko of Vermilion. They are farming at Islay, Alberta. They have a family of four girls and two boys.

Jean — born at Lac Canard, Alberta on April 7th, 1933, married Jack Morrison of Vermilion and are farming in that area. They have two boys and a girl.

Valerie — born in Lac Canard on October 14th, 1936, married Stu Hilcox of Vermilion, Alberta, was widowed not two years later. She is now a landlady owning homes in Vancouver, B.C. and Vermilion, Alberta.

AIME AND GERMAINE MALO (NEE ROBINSON)

by Aime Malo.

Aime, youngest son of Richmond and Delvina Malo (nee Caron), was born in Lafond, October 20, 1921.

He attended Lafond School and worked on the farm with his parents until he married.

On January 26, 1946, he married Germaine, daughter of Alphonse and Marie Louise Robinson (nee Morin). Germaine was born in Chesterville



Taken 1967, 25th Wedding Anniversary, Aime and Germaine Malo and Family. Marguerite, Doris, Raymond, Germaine, Aime.

near Lafond. She attended Chesterville School and lived with her parents until she married.

Aime and Germaine were married in the St. Bernard Roman Catholic Church, Lafond with Father Mailloux officiating.

In 1942, Aime rented his parent's farm for a few years, then purchased it. They farmed successfully until 1972. They then sold the farm and moved to St. Paul, where they are presently living.

They have 3 children;

Raymond — born July 23, 1951.

Marguerite — born May 30, 1955 married Roger Theroux and they have 2 children; Sonny and Elisha.

Doris — born October 4, 1957.

ALPHONSE AND CANDIDE MALO:

by Candide Malo (nee Hurtubise)

Alphonse was the first child born to Emile and Camilla Malo on Aug. 24, 1915. He was born at home. He received his schooling at Lafond School between the years 1923 to 1929. He left school in Grade six to work at home because his dad was sick, and being the oldest, had to take care of the farm work.

I, Candide, the second child born to Octave and Emma Hurtubise on April 26, 1916 in St. Paul. Then we moved to Cork and lived there for 8 years. This is where my mother passed away in 1930. I quit my

grade 7 class so that I could help take care of the house and the younger ones of the family. Then at 17, I went on my own, working in St. Paul.

Alphonse and I were married in Lafond July 14, 1940 and then moved to our farm on N.E. 34-56-10-4. That winter we both went north to work for Rocheleau Saw Mills. Alphonse worked as a Tail Sawyer and earned a full \$1.50 a day and I earned \$15.00 a month as a cook. I had to bake bread twice a week along with cooking 3 meals a day for 6 to 12 men on a little wood stove. In April, we were very glad to come back home.

We had five children: Roger, Marie-Ange, Paul, Lionel, were born on the farm and Denis was born in the hamlet of Lafond to which we moved, after being 16 years on the farm. Incidentally the house we live in now, in Lafond is the same house we built on the farm 38 years ago. In Lafond, Alphonse worked as caretaker of the Lafond School (25 years), school bus driver (22 years), and secretary treasurer of the Lafond Credit Union (19 years and still at it).

Alphonse and I always liked to travel. In 1950, ten years after we were married we went to Vancouver for our honeymoon. My dad and most of my brothers and sisters had moved down there. We drove to Edmonton and from there we took the C.N. In 1950 that was quite a trip and Alphonse figured it would be the only time he would ever get a chance to go. Well since then, we've been to Vancouver over a dozen times. In 1966, we visited Vancouver Island and made our way down to Seattle to visit the exhibitions at the World's Fair. In July 1975, we headed south along the Oregon Coast line to California and finally down to Mexico, not missing Disneyland, Reno, Las Vegas. We are both



Alphonse and Candide Malo's family 1981. Back row: Lionel, Roger, Aurele, Denis, Gilbert, Steve, Paul. Middle row: Danita, Yolande, Leanne, Candide, Alphonse, Laurie, Marie-Ange, Susan. Bottom row: Ian, Lee, Tia, Darwin, Greg, Joey.

looking forward to retirement, so we can find time to go to other places we'd like to see!

Alphonse will always be remembered for his violin playing. He learned the old tunes, dating back to the turn of the century, from his dad who hummed or sang them for him to learn on the violin. These tunes included the French Minuet, Seven Steps, Charleston, Ton P'tit Chien Madame, Schottish, Waltz Quadrille, Heel and Toe, Jigs' tap dance, Breakdown Square Dance, Brandy, and not forgetting the good old time Waltz and Round Polkas, and I learned to dance them from my dad. He also learned to play the more modern dances like the Fox Trots, One Steps, Two Steps, Butterfly, the



Roger, Lionel, Alphonse Malo, Marie-Ange (Malo) Krankowsky. Playing music in the Living room, just like we did many times before.



Four Generations: Roger Malo, Emile Malo, Aurele Malo, Alphonse Malo.



Alphonse Malo and Candide Hurtubise and a horse called Molly — 1938.



First trip to B.C. Taken at Maillardville. Alphonse, Candide, and Candide's dad (Octave Hurtubise).

Waltz and Jive which he learned from records. He played for weddings, anniversaries and dances for over 34 years. Besides all his other work, he still had time to play music with his children at home. Some of the children that enjoyed playing music were: Roger on the guitar and accordion, Marie-Ange on the accordion and piano, and Lionel on the drums and guitar. Music always was and still is a great delight to the whole family.

Roger married Yolande Roberge in 1964 and they have three children: Aurele, Gilbert, Leanne.

Marie-Ange married Steve Krankowsky in 1965 and they have two children: Laurie, Darwin.

Paul married Susan Croteau in 1972 and they have two boys: Joey and Greg.

Lionel married Danita McLean in 1975 and they have 2 boys and a girl: Lee, Tia, Ian.

Denis is still single.

ANDRÉ AND LOUISE MALO AND FAMILY (1962-1981)

by André and Louise Malo

I, André Malo, second son of Oscar and Julie Malo (née Jean) was the first child of the family to be born in a hospital. I was born on September 28, 1937 in St. Thérèse Hospital. I started school at the age of six. About a month after, in October, I had scarlet fever and had bad infection in both my ears. I could not go outside all winter so I did not go to school for the rest of the year. I was seven years old before I could start school again. I had to walk a mile and half to go to school. In wintertime, it was not so funny; as we had to walk on snow banks, and sometimes it was very cold. I started school in the old Lafond School and went to school till I was 14 years of age. I recall that I never went to school on a school bus.

Now, that I was out of school, so young, I knew that someday everything would turn out for the best for me. I could not go out and work so I stayed on the farm to help my father. We had to milk about 15 cows by hand, morning and night without the convenience of electricity. My father had four quarters of land to cultivate and we did not have big machinery like today, so he indeed needed



Family picture 1980. Front row: Louise and André Malo. Standing: Jeannine, Diane, and Laurie.



New house built in 1976, Mr. and Mrs. André Malo.

It was on August 23rd., 1965 that our first daughter, Diane, was born. When she was 6 years old she started school at Lafond and went to Lafond School until 1975. She also attended St. Paul Elementary School for her grade 5 and St. Paul Racette School for her grades 6 to 9. Today she is in grade 10, attending St. Paul Regional High School. Both of our children have been in 4H for three years. Diane is very active and she sure loves the outdoors.

In the fall of 1965, we had the underground telephone line. What a convenience this would be in case of an emergency on the farm.

In the spring of 1965, we started renting more land. We rented from our neighbor, Mr. Lapointe. We rented until 1974, and then we bought 2 quarters from him.

Seeing that we had more land to cultivate, in the spring of 1966, we bought our first new tractor. It was a green Deutz tractor with a cab. This was kind of a luxury having a tractor with a cab.

Then in 1967 we decided to increase our milking herd. We bought more milk cows. We were now milking 15 to 16 cows. To make it easier we had two Surge Milking Machines.

In the winter of 1967, we decided to build a new barn, and started making plans for it. It would be for milking cows and also for pigs. The new barn was started on June 13, 1968 and as soon as the walls and rafters were up, about twelve neighbors came to help us put the shingles on the roof. This help was sure appreciated. The barn was finished in the fall, after combining.

On January 3, 1969 our second son, Gerald was born. He was a very good baby, but on April 9, 1969 during Easter week, he passed away. He will always be remembered as a sweet little one. Events such as this are hard to accept, but God is always there to help.

In August of 1969, we had our 1966 red and white GMC truck stolen and it had been damaged a lot. So in November 1969, we bought our first new car. It was a 1969 blue and white Plymouth.

In the spring of 1970, when seeding was finished, we decided to take a trip. On July 8, 1970

some help. In springtime it would take us about two months to put in the crops. Then during the summer months, it was time to make the hay. We would put the hay in stacks with forks. Today it is easy with round balers. In the fall, it was the cutting of the grain. Victor and I, we would stook about fifty acres a day, for about three weeks. Now it was time to thresh the grain with a threshing machine (1928 model). The threshing run would sometimes last about one month in the fall. It was hard work and long days.

In the spring of 1962, I bought a half section from Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Lavoie. The farm is located one mile and a half, north of Lafond.

On June 9th., 1962, I married Louise Chartrand from Mallaig. The wedding ceremony and reception was held in Mallaig Community Hall. We had our wedding dance at the St. Paul Legion Hall and Alphonse Malo's orchestra played. We also went for a short honeymoon.

We moved on the farm on June 20th., 1962. We had five cows, 2 sows, and a few chickens. For a tractor, we had a Cockshutt 40 and for a car we had a green 1952 Chevrolet.

The first winters were difficult. I went and cut bush for .50¢ an hour, and sold eggs for .25¢ a dozen. We milked cows and sold cream but that brought in very little money.

In the fall of 1962, we bought a 1958 GMC truck, which would be more convenient on the farm.

On October 1st, 1963 our first son, Laurier, was born. At the age of 6, he started school in Lafond and went till 1975. Then he registered at St. Paul Racette School for his grades 6 to 9. At the present time, he is in grade 11 at St. Paul Regional High School. He is interested in taking a welding course.



André Malo's milk and hog barn, built in 1968.

we left for three weeks to go to Victoria. We enjoyed it very much because it was our first trip by car.

We decided to change tractor, so in spring of 1971 we bought a 100-06 Deutz tractor. This tractor was more powerful and would mean fewer hours in the field. In this way, we could get our harvesting all done in less time. Also in 1971 we rented three more quarters. I rented from my brother, Bernard, but that same year, we were hailed out.

On September 4th, 1971 our second daughter, Jeannine was born. We were very proud, a big and healthy baby. In 1976, she started kindergarten in St. Paul and in 1977 for her grade one she went to St. Paul Elementary School. She is now doing her grade 4.

Also in the fall of 1971, on September 10th, we sold our milk cows. This would mean a lot more time to harvest the crops.

On December 1st, 1973, we bought S.E. 1/4 1-57-11-4 from my brother Bernard. Now we had five quarters to cultivate.

In the spring of 1974, towards the middle of May, I was confined to the hospital for an operation. My seeding was not completed. A bee was formed and about ten neighbors and friends came for two days to seed my crop. We will always remember their kindness towards us.

Now that we had more land to cultivate and harvest, it was time to have a bigger combine, so in the fall of 1975 we traded our Cockshutt (1961) combine for a new CCIL pull-type combine. Harvesting would be done faster and in a better way.

In the spring of 1976 we decided we needed a new home. The old one was about 65 years old and we had lived in it for 15 years. So on August 10th, 1976 we started building it. It was only on March 2nd, 1977 that we moved into it.

Then in the spring of 1977, we bought another new tractor. It was a Deutz 130-06 tractor. We needed a bigger tractor because we wanted to rent more land. In 1978 we rented two quarters from Roger Desaulniers. Then in 1979 we rented two more quarters from him. Now we had eight quarters of land to cultivate. For the last three years we have had fairly good crops.

In January 1979, we took our first airplane trip. We went to Jamaica. What an educational trip! It is nice to see how people in different countries live compared to us. In March of that year, we also went to San-Francisco.

In February of 1980 we planned another trip. This time we decided to visit the Hawaiian Islands. We went to Oahu and Maui islands, a week on each. This trip was surely a memorable one. It is nice to visit such countries in winter because it is warm weather compared to our cold winter days. We also went to many other places such as: Banff, Jasper, Radium, and Fairmont Hot Springs and as far as Spokane.

We have been on the farm for 19 years, some were good and some bad. We have enjoyed all these wonderful years on the farm in Lafond. Hope that these memories for the history book will always be cherished for everyone of us.

MR. AND MRS. BERNARD MALO

by Jacqueline Malo

Bernard Malo, the 10th and last child born to Oscar Malo and Julienne Jean, attended school in Lafond till he started working on the farm. Then on June 24, 1967 in St. Paul, at the age of 21, he married Jacqueline deMoissac (born Jan. 17, 1948), the 4th daughter of 14 children of René deMoissac and Solange Joly. We then bought the farm and Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Malo moved to St. Paul. One year later, our first son was born on June 13, 1968. We named him Henri, then not losing any time our second



Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Malo and Family: Back row: Bernard, middle: Claire, Jacqueline, Henri, Front: Normand.



Bernard Malo's farm house in Lafond.

child, Claire, was born on September 22, 1969. A little later on, Normand was born on Feb. 4, 1971. We lived 5 beautiful years in Lafond, across the road from our very dear friends and cousins, Jos and Lucienne Malo.

In October of 1972, we decided to sell the farm and move to Hinton. Bernard had a job working for North West Pulp and Paper Mill as a woodcutter. We lived in an apartment for a year. In 1973 we bought a beautiful home, and are still living in it. Bernard is still working for the company and I, Jacqueline apprenticed as a beautician. I finished my course in Edmonton, in 1977. I am presently working under another beautician. The children all attend school. Henri, age 12 is in grade 5. The 2 boys are involved in sports, especially hockey. Claire takes piano lessons and took 5 years of dancing, tapp and jazz.



Emile Malo Family Picture. Back row: Emile, Jean-Pierre, Anna, Cecile Gouin, Louisa Dubois, Denise Lacombe, Josaphat. Front row: Richard, Laurette, Camilla, Alphonse, Aurore Julien.

EMILE AND CAMILLA MALO (NEE FOISY)

by Lionel Malo

research by Richard and Laurette Malo

It may have been a long time ago but the answer is still clear. Well it's as clear as it was back then.

In Quebec, in the 1880's a farmer did not own his own land. He worked for a landlord till he could not work anymore and hoped he had saved enough money for funeral expenses and perhaps send a few of his children to school and get them married and off, to live their own lives. Let's face it, there wasn't very much to look forward to until the word got around of fantastic and unbelievable opportunities in the west. You've heard of "Go West Young Man", well it was a very strong message brought to the east by newspapers advertising homesteads for people who simply wanted to make the trip. Priests returned home from the west to recruit new settlers, promising them a realization of their wildest dreams. Can you imagine the temptation that set itself in a young man's heart? A young man with eleven years schooling in a Catholic college, who, after completing his schooling, went to work

in a book store and then in a railroad yard building railroad cars. Such a young man was Emile Malo, son of Pierre Ayett-Dis-Malo, and Clorinthe Brunelle, a farmer that had already left the farm to live in the city. It didn't take Emile long to make up his mind and start packing.

In the fall of 1908, Emile and Richmond, an older brother got off the train in Vegreville, Alberta. Learning of a metis reserve that had opened up for squatters just a bit north east of Vegreville, they set out on foot. That metis reserve, later known as Champlain district, then Lafond, was the end of the journey for both men. Emile, not having any ties except for his brother, built himself a sod-roofed shack and squatted on the quarter just east of his brother's place.

Emile had never even driven a team of horses before but with some coaching from existing neighbors, managed to hitch two oxens and a horse to a one bottom breaking plough and started literally turning his land over.

There came the time he had to go to Edmonton to register his homestead. It was quite an ordeal. The trip down there was bad enough but when he got there, he found himself at the end of a huge line up. It took over 36 hours of standing, sitting, and anything else he could do to pass away the hours it took to get his turn to register. He often mentioned his great appreciation to the ladies of Edmonton who brought lunches and other things to the men standing in line for hours.

In 1914, Emile decided that the life of a homesteader was meaningless if he couldn't share it with someone. That someone was Camilla Foisy. They were married in Lafond July 27, 1914.

Camilla Foisy was the daughter of Alphonse Foisy and Ozine Pigeau. She was born in Lamoureux, Alberta, moved to Foisy District with her parents when she was only nine years old. Emile met



Emile Malo homestead built 1916, addition 1935.

GOVERNMENT
OF THE
PROVINCE
OF
ALBERTA
CANADA

1905

1955

GOLDEN JUBILEE
SENIOR CITIZEN AWARD

To all to whom these presents shall come:

*Know Ye That the People of Alberta have always
recognized and been truly appreciative of the Valuable
Contribution made to the Development of the Province
by the Pioneers and Senior Citizens thereof,
and That*

Camilla Malo

*Having been a Resident of Alberta
during or before the Year of Our Lord
One Thousand Nine Hundred and Five
and now residing during the Celebration
of the Golden Jubilee of Alberta in the Province
of Alberta, is hereby awarded the Golden Jubilee
Senior Citizen Award of the Province of Alberta.*

*In Testimony Whereof, I have hereto
set my hand and seal in the Year of Our Lord
One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty-Five,
for and on behalf of the People of Alberta.*

Premier of Alberta

Provincial Secretary



Senior Citizen Award "Camilla Malo".



Mr. and Mrs. Emile Malo 50th Wedding Anniversary.

her when he used to go to the store in Foisy.

Alphonse, the first of eleven children was born Aug. 24, 1915, in the sod shack just a year after they were married. Up to this time, Emile tried digging a few wells but was unsuccessful to find a good supply of water. He then decided to move to the other end of the quarter where water was plentiful and he would be near the road. He moved in 1916 and built the barn the following year. That year a second child, Laurette was born Nov. 20, 1917. At that time, he was farming about 40 to 45 acres with his first team of horses. A third child Aurore was born Oct. 29, 1919, and when she was just a few months old, she got diphtheria. There was almost no more hope for Aurore but as a last resort, Camilla gave the little baby a drop of coal oil in the back of her throat for the swelling to go down. That saved her life.

The winter of 1919-20 was known as the year of the feed. Because winter started very early that year and the wild hay was in short supply, farmers ended up taking barn roofs apart to feed their stock. Emile had four cows and three died in the spring.

Richard was born February 28, 1921, followed by Anna August 5, 1924 and Cecile March 30, 1926. In 1926 Emile sold the homestead and moved to Lafond and rented and operated a store. This only lasted six months, then he decided to buy a quarter, half a mile south of Lafond. Here they had Louisa born August 13, 1928, Jean-Pierre born October 15, 1929 and Josaphat born December 25, 1931. Meanwhile, Steve Snaychuk who had bought the homestead five years prior, couldn't pay for it, so the homestead came back to Emile. He had no choice but to move back to his old place.

Gaspard was born May 8, 1933 and Denise November 23, 1935. In 1936 Gaspard died of fever.

Alphonse married Candide Hurtubise in 1940. They have 5 children: Roger, Marie Ange Kranskowski, Paul, Lionel, Denis. Alphonse and Candide live in the Lafond Hamlet.

Laurette, single lives with her brother Richard

on a farm in Lafond.

Aurore married Claude Julien in 1950. They have 5 children: Michel, Dolores, Danielle, Guy, Sylvie. They live in Montreal, Quebec.

Richard, single, lives on a farm in Lafond.

Anna, single, lives in Calgary, Alberta.

Cecile married Joseph Gouin in 1947. They had 3 children: Emilienne Doucet, Camilla Hale and Irene. Joseph passed away in 1979. Cecile lives in Edmonton, Alberta.

Louisa married Maurice Dubois in 1950. They had 4 children: Gilbert, Gisele Meilleur, Doris Poiras, Patricia Logozar. Louisa and Maurice live in Calgary.

Jean-Pierre married Leontine Marcelais in 1954. They had 5 children: Alain, Raymond, Marcel, Jeannette, Germain. They live in Mallardville, B.C.

Josaphat married Lucienne Marcoux in 1963. They have 5 children: Michel, Raoul, Desirée, Timothy, Yanik. They live on the old homestead.

Gaspard passed away in 1936 at the age of three.

Denise married Raymond Lacombe. They have 3 children: Yvon, Ramona Logozar, and Suzanne. They live on a farm in Lafond.

In 1964 Emile and Camilla celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. The celebration took place on the homestead.

Emile passed away February 27, 1966, Camilla passed away September 15, 1978. Both are buried in the Lafond Cemetery.



Four Generations — Camilla, Cecile Gouin, Emilienne Doucet, Raymond Doucet.



Hervé and Bernadette Malo's wedding picture, in 1936.

HERVÉ AND BERNADETTE MALO

by Bernadette Malo (Brault)

Hervé Malo was born at home in a log cabin on June 21, 1913. His parents are Richmond Malo and Albina Caron.

Bernadette, daughter of Felix Brault and Lovina Foisy was born on November 6, 1917.

Hervé and Bernadette were married on October 19, 1936, in Lafond, in a double wedding ceremony with Laurent Brault and Irene Malo. The wedding dance was at Esko Beach Hall.

Hervé and Bernadette lived on a farm in the Foisy area, four miles west of Lafond. The six children all went to school and to church in Lafond. It was hard work on the farm, working the land with horses, milking quite a number of cows, feeding hogs and chickens, but it was a nice place to raise a family. We lived there for thirty-seven years.

We have now been retired in St. Paul seven years. As we think back, we realize that our best days were when we were living on the farm, raising our family.



Hervé Malo with his team during threshing time, taken in 1935.

A bit about our six children:

Helen married Leo Faucher. They live in Lac La Biche where Helen works at the Treasury Branch. They have four children: Arthur, Denis, Diane and Roxanne.

Hector married Shirl Danyluk. They live in Quesnel, B.C. where Hector works as a welder. They have two boys: Vaun and Brent.

Marcel married Iris Markowsky. They live in Edmonton where Marcel works in a Sheet Metal Shop.

Viviane married Dave Austin. They live in St. Paul. Viviane works as a receptionist at the Medical Clinic. They have two boys: Ricky and Marcel.

Diane married Richard Abel. She works for the Alberta Liquor Control Board in Edmonton where she lives.

Albert will soon be married. He lives in Edmonton and works in a Sheet Metal Shop.



Hervé and Bernadette Malo's 40th wedding Anniversary in 1976. Left to right: Hector and his wife, Shirl; Leo Faucher and Helen; Hervé and Bernadette Malo (Parents); Diane, Albert, Iris and Marcel Malo, Viviane and Dave Austin.



Hervé and Bernadette with their grandchildren: six boys and two girls.

THE JOSAPHAT MALO FAMILY

by *Lucienne Malo*

Josaphat was born on December 25th, 1931. He was the youngest living son of Emile Malo and Camilla (née Foisy). Josaphat is ninth in a family of eleven children. His brothers and sisters consist of: Alphonse Malo (1915), Laurette Malo (1917), Aurore (Malo) Julien (1919), Richard Malo (1921), Anna Malo (1924), Cecile (Malo) Gouin (1927), Louisa (Malo) Dubois (1929), Jean-Pierre Malo

(1930), Gaspard Malo (1933-1936), and Denise (Malo) Lacombe (1935). Josaphat was very small and delicate at birth and weighed only 2½ lbs. His mother, Camilla, didn't expect him to live very long so she gave him a teaspoon of homemade wine and a lick of chocolate thinking this might give him a little strength. He was also ruptured when he was born which made it quite difficult for Mrs. Michel Laframboise, midwife, who had assisted at the birth. She put a silver dollar on the rupture which was tied snugly with a flannelette band.

Josaphat's parents and the family lived half a mile south of Lafond on a quarter of land that they had bought. Later the house was moved right into Lafond and added to by Léo Mailloux. Aladin Foisy, Josaphat's brother-in-law, is the owner. When Josaphat was six months old, the family moved to Emile's homestead where Josaphat still lives with his wife and family. Josaphat was still quite small when he started school in 1937. He attended the old Lafond School. His teachers were Miss Florence Brosseau, Miss Clina Morin, Sister Mariam, and Sister St. Germaine. Josaphat left school in 1947 finishing his grade eight. He then went to work on the farm with his dad and brother, Richard. In 1958, Josaphat bought the homestead from his dad. His brother, Richard, bought a quarter section of land from Mr. Leopold Bergeron, the S.E. 9-57-10-4. Then Josaphat and Richard farmed together in partnership. In 1965 Raymond Lacombe came into the partnership which made it easier all around, sharing the work and the expenses of the machinery. This arrangement continued until 1972, when Josaphat rented his farm to Richard and Raymond.

I, Lucienne Malo (née Marcoux) was born on March 4th, 1945 in St. Thérèse Hospital in St. Paul.



Taken November 9th, 1963. Josaphat and Lucienne Malo.



Taken in 1977. Back row L. to R.: Michel, Lucienne and Josaphat Malo. Front row L. to R.: Raoul, Timmy, Yanik and Désirée.



Armand Marcoux and family taken in 1966. Front row L. to R.: Yvon, Lucienne Malo and son Michel, Jeannine Déchaine and son Grégoire; Dolores and Armand Marcoux, Paulette Foisy and daughter Monique, and Estelle. Back row L. to R.: Gerald, Josaphat Malo, Roméo Déchaine, Benoit, Sylvia; Aladin Foisy, Oliva, and Marcel.

I am the second oldest daughter of Armand Marcoux (1908-1974) and Dolores Benoit (1918). My family consists of four sisters and five brothers. They are Jeannine Marcoux (1944) who married Roméo Déchaine in 1965 and is now living in Sayward, B.C. Paulette Marcoux (1946) married Aladin Foisy in 1965 and is now living in Lafond, Alberta. Benoit Marcoux (1947) married Annette Turcotte in 1969 and is now living in Morinville, Alberta. Sylvia Marcoux (1948) married Gilles Gamache in 1970 and is now living in Bonnyville, Alberta. Gerald Marcoux (1949) married Marie Labonté in 1974 and is now living in Sherwood Park, Alberta. Oliva Marcoux (1950) married Linda Swedgen in 1977 and is now living in St. Edouard, Alberta. Estelle Marcoux (1951) married Raymond Zahara in 1973 and is now living in Bonnyville, Alberta. Marcel Marcoux (1952) married Bertha Wolak in 1979 and is now

living in St. Edouard, Alberta. Yvon Marcoux (1956) married Kay Beazley in 1977 and is now living in Drayton Valley, Alberta.

My father Armand Marcoux, lived in St. Edouard on his dad, Charles Marcoux's, homestead. Dad farmed all his life and in March 1974, he passed away leaving mom, Dolores Marcoux, and my two brothers, Marcel and Yvon Marcoux, to continue the farm work. In May, 1977, my brother, Oliva Marcoux, bought the farm and is presently living there.

I started school in September, 1950, in the old Poirier School, one mile west from home which was approximately four miles east of St. Paul. At the time, I had to walk to school because there were no busses. In 1952, we were then moved to a county school, right in St. Edouard and we were bussed to school. I completed grade 10 in 1961 and in the

summer I went to work at St. Thérèse Hospital in St. Paul. I worked as ward aide until October 1963.

Josaphat and I met on December 26th, 1962 at a dance at Flat lake Hall. We started dating on New Year's Day, 1963 then on July 25th, 1963 we were engaged. We were married on November 9th, 1963 at St. Edouard Church, followed by the banquet for relatives and friends in the basement of the church. After the banquet, we had a wedding dance in the Legion Hall in St. Paul and Steve Petruk's band was entertaining for the evening. It was a very beautiful day and it hadn't snowed until after the wedding, on November 11th of that year. That winter we lived in a teacherage in Lafond School yard. Richard was building a house on his quarter section of land at S.E. 9-57-10-4 and in June, 1964 he moved with his sister, Laurette, and his parents, leaving the old place to Josaphat. We then moved into the old house and we continued farming until 1972. In 1970 we bought some dairy cows and we milked 28 of them. Then in 1972, we sold all our cows and the equipment. In the winter of 1972-1973, Josaphat went to Edmonton to the Alberta Vocational Centre, to finish his grade 9 and grade 10. In June 1973, Josaphat started working for Theroux Ditching learning the backhoe operation. Then in March 1974, Josaphat was employed at the St. Paul Co-op as receiver. He worked for the Co-op until February, 1977. Then in the spring of 1977 he started working for Hi-way 28 Freightways as a truck driver on deliveries in town. Now he is driving vans in town on deliveries. We have five children: four boys and one girl. They are Michel Malo (1965), Nicholas Malo 8 hours old (1966-1966), Raoul Malo (1968), Désirée Malo (1969), Timothy Malo (1972), and Yanik Malo (1973). Michel Malo is now going to the Regional High School in St. Paul. Raoul, Désirée, Timothy and Yanik are all presently going to school in Lafond.

We have not done much travelling but in June 1967, we took a trip to Montreal to Expo 1967. We went with my parents, Armand and Dolores Marcoux, and it was quite an experience. We all had a beautiful time but we were anxious to come back to our chores, after three weeks on the road. In the winter of 1970, we went to Vancouver for the first time.

After our children were all at school, I then went to work part-time for Brian Poon as supervisor at the Regional High School in the Food Preparation Department. In June of 1978, we started building our new house with the help of friends and relatives. We worked at it every chance we had, to get it finished and thirteen months later we moved in. The old house, 65 years old, was demolished and by Easter 1980, we were filling the old basement, ten feet away from the new house. Soon afterwards we levelled the yard and seeded it to grass which came up very nicely to become a beautiful lawn.

Since then, we have added flower beds along the house, cement sidewalks from the front to the side door. We are all really enjoying our new home, for which the whole family has worked very hard.

LIONEL AND DANITA MALO

by Lionel Malo

I was the fourth child born to Alphonse and Candide Malo on June 8, 1953, on a farm just three miles east of Lafond. When I was three years old, the family moved off the farm to the Hamlet of Lafond. I went to school from grades one to nine in Lafond and graduated in St. Paul. After finishing school, there was a period of indecision as to what I wanted to do, so I drove a gravel truck for a while, then I moved to Edmonton and worked at various jobs, which included working in a custom fiberglass shop as a fiberglass tech. City life was not for me, so I moved back and found a job in St. Paul as an apprentice mechanic. I liked mechanics very much and four years later I was a licensed journeyman.

I met Danita while working in her uncle's service station in St. Paul. Danita was the second child born to Archie and Alaine MacLean of Brosseau, Alberta June 21, 1954. She lived in Brosseau for 17 years then moved to St. Paul with her parents. After completing her schooling, she worked at various jobs that took her around the northern part of Alberta and B.C. She finally ventured back to St. Paul and got a job in her uncles' service station.

We were married March 7, 1975 and lived in St. Paul for a while. In June of 1978, we moved her mom's house to Lafond and remodeled it. In Dec. of the same year we moved to Lafond. This is a pretty quiet place to live so, we started getting interested in trail riding. Horses are too expensive so we bought two motorbikes. So far we haven't broken any bones, but it's expected. We have three children: Lee Cordell, Tia Laurene, Ian MacLean. We like it here in Lafond and plan to make our home here for many years.

OSCAR MALO AND FAMILY

by André and Louise Malo

Oscar Malo, first child of Richmond and Dalvina Malo (née Caron), was born in Montréal, on July 26, 1902. He left Montréal in 1909, by train with his parents and brother Henri and sisters, Annette and Rose. It was a long ride for a seven year old. They arrived in Vegreville in the spring of 1909, and stayed there for three weeks. Then they decided to come to settle in the Lafond district. They came down with a team of horses and a wagon and lived in a shack, which was already there, one mile east and half a mile north of Lafond. In the meantime they built their new home, half a mile north of

Lafond. It was built with logs and the roof was made of sod. Then they whitewashed the walls with lime to make the inside look brighter.

The first years on the farm were very difficult. Oscar, the oldest son, helped his father with numerous chores. Since there was no school in the surrounding area, Oscar was about twelve years old when he went to school at Mrs. Marie-Ange Laframboise's residence. She was the one teaching at that time (1914). Oscar later stayed home to help his father. They had two quarters to cultivate with horses, cows to milk and other cattle to take care of. In his spare time, Oscar learned to play the violin, being taught by a good neighbor, Onias Despin. He also sang in Lafond Church every Sunday.

Oscar was twenty-three years of age when he decided to get married. On October 27, 1925, Oscar married Julianne Jean, oldest daughter of Basil and Alice Jean (née Dumont). It was a cold autumn day with a little snow on the ground. They went to church with two Model T cars belonging to Mr. Eugene Foisy and Julien Therien. The wedding ceremony took place in the old Lafond Church. About thirty guests were present at the church ceremony. The wedding celebrations took place at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Richmond Malo, where with the help of relatives and friends, the wedding meals were served to the invited guests. They were just as delicious as most catered meals of today. Their wedding dance was also held in the Malo home. The music was supplied by Mr. Martin Lavallée and Mr. Leonid Johnson. Oscar and Julianne had their wedding picture taken in St. Paul. No honeymoon was even thought of, at the time.

A few days after the wedding, they moved to their own homestead: N.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ 4-57-10-4th. Only thirty acres were open on this quarter, at that time. As a house, they had an old shack which was already there. This meant there would be a lot of clearing of land to be done in the future years. That first winter, they both cut wood to clear the land and also made fire wood for their buck stove, to warm up the shack. They also cut some big logs to build a barn for the next spring. They kept busy during winter by feeding a few head of cattle, pigs and horses. Their only means of transportation in summer was a horse and a buggy. In winter they had a sleigh or a cutter.

On December 4th, 1926, Antoinette, a first daughter was born with the very able assistance of Mrs. Marie-Ange Laframboise. In 1949, she married Lucien Charbonneau of St. Lina. They have a family of 9 children: Claudette, Léona, Guy, Alice, Diane, André, Suzanne, Monique and Doris. Today the family is living in Therien, four are married and one is in school.

On September 18, 1928 Thérèse a second daughter was born and again Mrs. Laframboise assisted at the birth. On June 17th, 1952 she married Florent Brien of Falher. They have a family of four children: Edward, Emile, Diane and André. In 1971 they sold their farm and moved to Edmonton where they are presently living.

In 1930, my father bought his first new car. It was a model T Ford. He was very proud of having a car for, in those days, it was a real luxury.

It was on August 12th, 1930 that Gilberte, a third daughter, was born. She married Albert Gill on November 12, 1951 of St. Vincent. They have



Oscar Malo Family (1952). Front row: Julianne Malo, Thérèse, Oscar Malo, and Bernard. Second row: Maurice, Yvonne, Gilberte, Victor, Antoinette, Léona and André.

two children: Madeleine and Marcel. Today they are still living on the farm in the St. Vincent area.

On June 20th of 1932, Victor, a first son was born. He married Lorraine Lafortune of St. Paul on July 13th, 1954. They have a family of five: Mariette, Roland, Clément, Michel, and Marc. They lived in Lafond, St. Paul, Hinton and at present, they are living in Kelowna, B.C. where Victor works as a carpenter.

There was a double wedding ceremony in the family on July 13, 1954. This event does not happen too often.

In 1934 on February 12th, Léona, a fourth daughter was born. She married Rudolph Côté of Lafond on July 13, 1954. They have a family of three: Léo, Emile and Marilyn. The family is living on the farm in Lafond at the present time. Léo is an electrician in Edmonton.

In the winter time, my father would haul his grain to St. Paul with a sleigh and a team of horses.

On September 10, 1935, Yvonne, a fifth daughter was born. She was a very small baby, weighing only 4 lbs. My mother was lucky to have Mrs. Marie-Ange Laframboise to assist her at this birth.



Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Malo Wedding October 27, 1925.

She married Raymond Lafrenière of Lafond on November 9, 1954. They have a family of two: Paul and Pauline. They always have lived in Lafond, helping at the Lafond store.

During the summer of 1936, dad built a big barn for his horses. He had about twenty-four horses and they needed shelter for the winter.

He bought his first threshing machine in 1937 and also his first tractor which was a Minneapolis tractor. A crew of twelve men was required to operate the threshing machine. He used this threshing machine for twenty-four years and threshed thousands of bushels of grain.

It was on September 28, 1937, I, André, a second son was born. It was mom's first baby born in a hospital. I weighed 12 lbs. 9 ozs., so it was lucky she was at St. Thérèse Hospital. I married Louise Chartrand of Mallaig on June 9, 1962. We had a family of two boys: Laurier and Gerald who died on April 9, 1969, and two girls: Diane and Jeannine. We have always lived on a farm, one and a half miles north of Lafond, formerly owned by Hubert Lavoie.

My father decided to expand his farming area so he bought a quarter section of land north of the home place: S.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ 9-57-10-4th.

The family was getting bigger so my father needed a better car. He traded his model T Ford for a chevrolet.



Four Generations: Richmond Malo (seated with baby Roland Malo). Left: Oscar Malo and to the right is Victor Malo. Taken in 1956.

In 1940 he bought his second tractor which was a 101 Massey Harris. Now it would be easier for him to work his land.

On April 8, 1940, Maurice, a third son, was born. He married Yvonne Chartrand of Mallaig on June 19, 1963. They have a family of three: Pauline, Georges and Réal. At first they lived in St. Paul but now they are living in Edmonton. Today, Maurice is a baker at a Co-op Store in Edmonton.

In the summer of 1940, my parents decided to build a new house. Grandpa Basil Jean was the carpenter with Zephrein Girard as his helper. They had many friends and neighbors helping them build this new home.

On July 18, 1942, Henri, a fourth son was born. He was interested in music and dancing. As soon as my father would take out his violin, he would start dancing. He passed away at the age of 6, on August 26, 1948.

In 1942, my father built another barn, because we were milking about twenty cows at the time.

In 1943, he built a garage and in 1945 he built a hog barn because he had about 200 pigs. When the hog barn was new, after a Sunday picnic, the baseball Club of Lafond made a barn dance. In 1945, he also bought another quarter S.E. ¼ 1-57-11-W of 4th., from Charles B.J. Lafond.

It was on August 22, 1945, Bernard, a fifth son was born. He married Jacqueline Demoissac of St. Paul on June 24, 1967. They have a family of three: Henri, Claire and Norman. They stayed on my father's farm till 1972, and then moved to Hinton where they are living today. Bernard works in the lumber industry and Jacqueline works as a hairdresser.

My father decided to have more conveniences on the farm, so in 1945 he bought his first electric 32-volt power plant.

In October of 1948, my mother was asked to take care of Denis Gouin because his mother had passed away. Although she had a big family, she was happy to take him in. Denis was only 3 years of age at the time. He needed a mother, such as mom to take care of him. Denis stayed at home for five years till 1953, and still feels a member of our family.

In 1949 my father bought himself a green Mercury car and was that ever nice!

In 1953 he bought some more land: N.W. ¼ 33-56-10-4 from Pierre Jean of Lafond. Now he had four quarters of land to cultivate and maintain.

Then in 1955 he changed cars again, and bought a black Oldsmobile. Later his last car, a 1965 blue Meteor was bought for their fortieth anniversary.

In 1955, dad joined the three mile Co-op Electric Power line. This power line would be more powerful than just a 32-volt plant for the farm.

As the years went by, men were hard to get to use the old threshing machine. After 24 years it is

time to make a change. So in the summer of 1961, my father bought a Co-op Cockshutt Combine.

During the many years on the farm, my father and mother took many trips. They went to Vancouver, Banff, Jasper and in 1967 went to Expo which was the last trip they ever took.

In the summer of 1967, my parents moved to St. Paul. They bought a house so they could enjoy their retirement for many years. Unfortunately, three years later, my father had a heart attack and passed away on April 8, 1970 at the age of 68 years.

I would like to mention some important facts about my father. He was a school trustee for about 20 years, and he also was on the Church Council for a long time.

My parents lived on the farm for 42 years (1925-1967) and they enjoyed living in the Lafond area for this long period of time.

RICHARD AND LAURETTE MALO

by Ramona Logozar

Richard and Laurette are brother and sister which have lived in Lafond area all their lives.

Richard, born February 28, 1921 to Emile and Camilla Malo (nee Foisy), attended school in Lafond, and stayed on the homestead with his parents. In 1963, he built his own home on quarter section S.E. 9-57-10-4. His parents and sister Laurette moved with him. This is where his parents lived for the rest of their lives.

In 1972, Richard, his brother Joe and brother-in-law Raymond Lacombe cut logs for lumber on quarter section N.W. 34-56-10-4. It took them 1 winter to cut these logs and skid them with a horse, from the bush to the rollway. The kids all loved to watch this and would go spend the day there with them.



Rolling logs on Quarter N.W. 34-56-10-4, Raoul Malo, Desiree Malo, Michel Malo, Suzanne Lacombe, Raymond Lacombe, Ramona Lacombe (Logozar), Richard Malo.

Richard and Raymond have been working as partners in farming for the last 16 years, and are still going strong.

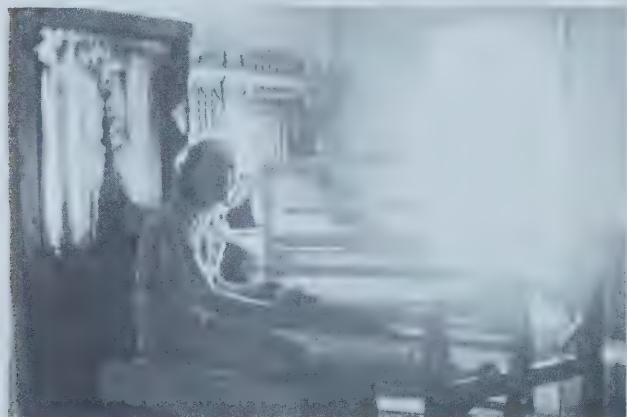
Laurette Malo born November 20, 1917, daughter of Emile and Camilla Malo (nee Foisy), lived with her brother Richard as a housekeeper all of her life.



Richard Malo taken in 1965.

She attended Lafond School approximately 6 years. After she finished school, she stayed home and helped her parents with the rest of the family which included 5 sisters and 4 brothers, and later on took care of her parents.

As a hobby in her younger days, she used to do lots of work on her loom making towels, blankets and rugs. She enjoys quilting, knitting and sewing. She is also very active in community affairs.



Miss Laurette Malo at her Loom.

MR. AND MRS. RICHMOND MALO (NEE CARON)

by the Family

Mr. Richmond Malo, son of Pierre and Clorinna Malo (nee Brunelle) was born in Hochelaga, Quebec, February 18, 1877. On January 21, 1901, he married Delvina Caron, daughter of Pierre and Celina Caron (nee Champagne). Delvina was born in Acton Vale Quebec, October 8, 1881. After Richmond and Delvina were married they lived for a



Pierre and Clorine Malo (nee Brunelle). Parents of Richmond and Emile Malo. Taken in Quebec late in the 1800's.

few years in Hochelaga, where four of their children were born.

Like many Easterners, they were encouraged to move west, where the land was fertile and the hay was growing in abundance.

In 1909, Richmond and his family left their birthplace and journeyed west by train to Vegreville. Mrs. Malo remained there, while Richmond



The Richmond Malo Family 1919. Annette, Oscar, Richmond, Delvina, Irene on knees, Rose. Front: twins — Herve and Yvonne.



Taken in 1950. Mr. and Mrs. Richmond Malo's 50th Wedding Anniversary. Father Laberge, Mr. and Mrs. Richmond Malo, Monseigneur Loranger.

travelled further North in search for a place to settle. On April 10, 1909 he filed for a homestead the (N.W. 5-57-10-4) in the Lafond district and acquired it, after waiting in line for thirty-six hours at the Land Titles Office. He immediately built a log cabin covered with sod. Four months later his wife and children joined him. With horses they journeyed from Vegreville to Lafond, crossing the North Saskatchewan River on a raft.

They bought themselves a walking plow and two oxens and were ready to make improvements on their homestead. They built a log barn to accommodate a cow, a few pigs and chickens.

In 1912, they built themselves a roomier house covered with shingles to replace the sod shack. A meeting of the ratepayers of the district was organized by Richmond and set for June 10, 1913 at his home. This was the first of a series of meetings, called to form a Local Improvement District, later becoming the Municipal District of Champlain #544. He served as a councillor for this district for a few years.

Mr. Malo like other homesteaders hauled his farm produce with horses to Vegreville, the nearest railroad, freighting merchandise for local merchants on the return journey.

In 1919 influenza struck the Malo family and as a result one boy (Henri), died at the age of 13, on February 19.

A larger and more comfortable house was built in 1920 accommodating the growing family. Although under different ownership, this house still stands today 1980, one mile north of Lafond.

Their first automobile was a 1928 Chevrolet purchased that same year. In 1929 they bought a New Minneapolis tractor and threshing machine, making their farm operations more convenient.

Each year relatives and friends were invited at the Malo's for a New Year's party, enjoyed by everyone. Mr. Malo would entertain with his accordion and mouth organ. Mrs. Malo was the highlight of the celebration for the children, throwing a red quilt over her head acting as Santa Claus, distributing gifts, popcorn balls and candies.

Mr. and Mrs. Malo farmed successfully until 1946 when they retired.

They lived in the hamlet of Lafond for the next 4 years close to their family and friends.



The Richmond Malo Family 1945. Sitting: Annette, Delvina, Richmond, Oscar. Back: Herve, Yvonne, Irene, Rose, Aime.

In 1950 they moved to a house in St. Paul where they lived for 10 years.

On May 26, 1960, Mr. Malo passed away at the age of 84 years. Mrs. Delvina Malo sold the property and moved to a Senior Citizens Home in St. Paul where she lived for 17 years. On February 18, 1977, Mrs. Delvina Malo passed away at the age of 97 years, leaving 7 children, numerous grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Their family consists of:

Oscar (1903) married Julienne Jean (10 children)

Henry (1906) died 1919

Annette (1907) married Francis Robinson (12 children)

Rose (1908) married Eugene Foisy (8 children)

Herve (1913) married Bernadette Brault (6 children)

Yvonne (1913) Herve's twin, married Gilbert Foisy (6 children)

Irene (1918) married Laurent Brault (6 children)

Aime (1921) married Germaine Robinson (3 children).

BILL AND HELEN MARCENIUK

by Helen Marceniuk:

I, Helen Marceniuk was born on April 7, 1942 and started school in Lafond in 1948. There were no buses so I stayed in Lafond with my sister Mrs. Annette Gagné until 1955, just going home on weekends. The bus started to run in 1956. I attended school till grade 10 in 1959. Then I stayed home till I was married on April 15, 1961 to Wm Marceniuk from Spedden. We farmed there till 1972. We have two boys; Roy Ellen, born on Feb. 17, 1963 and Gary on March 17, 1965. We moved to Elk Point where we are now living. Bill is an elevator Manager for United Grain Growers, and I work as a secretary.



The William Marceniuk Family. L-R: Roy, Helen, William, Gary.

JEAN BAPTISTE AND ELODIE MARION (NEE FOISY)

by Helene Coopey and Armand Foisy

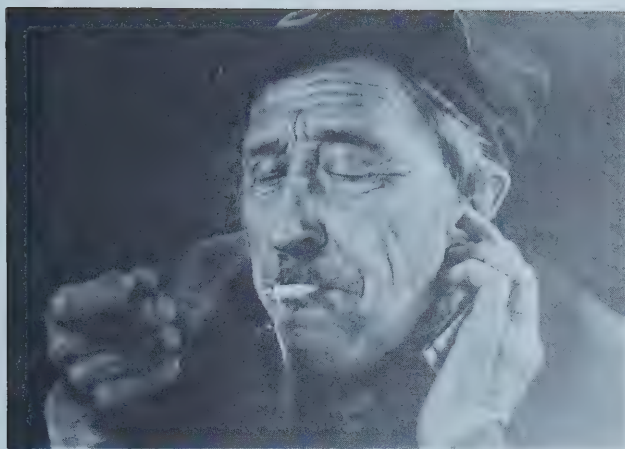
Elodie, daughter of Eugene and Angele Foisy (nee Poirier), was born in 1861, at Iles des Allumettes, Quebec. She married Jean Baptiste Marion in 1881 at Pembroke, Ontario. The Marion family homesteaded the S.E. 20-56-11-4 in the Foisy district in 1906. In 1924 they sold this land to a nephew Eugene Foisy Jr.



The Jean Baptiste Marion Family. Back row: L-R: Emilien, Forest, Rene, Ovila, Jean Baptiste Marion (father) Delphine, Lenore, Philias, Anna, Elodie (mother).



Lenore Marion (Boucher) Philias Marion, Johnny Marion. Taken 1907.



Taken 1975. Rene Marion, youngest son of Jean Baptiste and Elodie Marion spent most of his life bachelor in the Foisy district.

They raised a family of 9 children.

1. Philias — single
2. Lenore married Omer Boucher
3. Johnny — single
4. Agnes married Delphis Vaillancourt
5. Forest married Delphine Chalifoux
6. Laurence married Aladin Foisy
7. Emilien married Anna Marret
8. Ovila married Virginie Dupuis
9. Rene — single

FRED MARKOWSKI

by John Markowski

Fred Markowski, the third oldest son, married Katherine Todurak of Vilna on May 15, 1923. They settled on the land that Fred's parents owned. They lived in Edmonton and Vilna, then moved back to Lake Eliza where they raised a family of six, four boys and two girls. In 1964 *Fred and Katherine Markowski* sold out and retired to Vancouver, B.C. Fred



Katherine and Fred Markowski.

passed away in February of 1980. Katherine continues to reside in Vancouver. Fred and Katherine's family also moved away from the family homestead

Rose, the eldest daughter, married Felix O'Neill of St. Brides and lived in St. Paul. They later moved to Edmonton with their family of two children, Maureen and Charlie, their third child, Cathy, was born in Edmonton.

Edward married Aileen Wilson of Edmonton. They resided in Edmonton and raised a family of one son, Gary, and one daughter, Linda. The entire family is now living in Vancouver, B.C.

Betty married and had one daughter, Chicky, Betty is now married to Harold Mathues and living in Philadelphia, U.S.A.

Steve married Elizabeth Wararwa of Vermilion and raised a family of four, two sons, Donald and Brian, and two daughters, Judy and Brenda. They are now living in the county of Athabasca, Alberta.

Orest, the youngest son, married and had a family in Edmonton, one daughter, Kim, and two sons, Kelly and Kenton. He is now living in Sparwood, B.C.

JOHN MARKOWSKI

story submitted by John Markowski

John, the oldest son of Fred and Katherine Markowski, married Julia Krankowsky of Lake Eliza and they settled on the land once owned by his uncle. They farmed there for 13 years and sold out in December of 1966, moving to Edmonton. They raised a family of four on the farm, and the



Julia and John Markowski and Family, from left: Ryan, Darwin, Kathy and Carol.

children attended school in Elk Point. Their eldest son Ryan, married Linda Burrill of Edmonton, are now raising a family of two daughters, Rachel and Chassity, and live in Coleman, Alberta. Darwin, the second eldest child, married Linda Smith of Edmonton and have made a home for themselves in Edmonton. John and Julia also have two girls, Kathy and Carol, both are living in Edmonton. At present Ryan is in the welding trade, Darwin is self-employed (Alpine Fencing), Kathy is in sales with N.L. Rucker Products Northern Hydraulics, Carol is a Dietary Technician at the University Hospital.

"THE MARKOWSKI FAMILY" to be continued

. . . . yes it is, Carol is to be married August 1, 1981, to Pat Belisle of Guelph, Ontario.

NICK AND PEARL MARKOWSKI

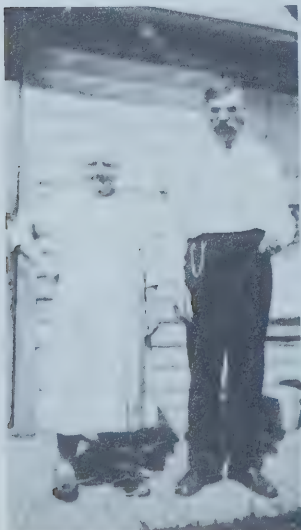
by Johnny Markowski

Nick and Pearl Markowski left Ukraine in 1907 to come to Canada, with a family of three sons and two daughters, Helen, Bill, Jack, Fred and Annie. They settled in the Mundare area.

In 1908 the family moved to the Myrnam area onto a homestead.

In 1910, they moved to the Lake Eliza district, where their fourth son, John, was born.

The eldest daughter Helen, married Mr. Soloniuk and moved to Beauvallon, Alberta. The oldest son, Bill, married and bought land in the Lake Eliza area but chose to live elsewhere and rented his land to various people. Jack, the second oldest son, moved from the area shortly after he got married. Annie, the second oldest daughter, married George Forchuk, and later settled in the Lake Eliza district where they operated the Myrnam ferry for many years. John, the youngest son later married and settled in Edmonton and later St. Paul.



Pearl and Nick Markowski.

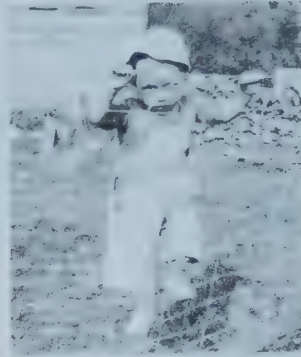
ALBERT AND AGNES MARSH AND FAMILY

submitted by Myrtle Gales and Marge Jodoin

Albert was born Feb. 27, 1906 at Beaumont, Alta. His parents, Joseph and Emma Marsh moved to Strathcona when Albert was twelve days old. They remained there until 1915. Albert had three sisters and three brothers. Gertude, Sadie (deceased), Daisy and Henry (deceased), Eddie and Ben.



Marjorie and Clifford 5 yrs. and 7 yrs. old.



Youngest child Kennie Marsh age 2 yrs.

In 1919, the family moved to Flat Lake. Times were hard, so Albert ventured out on his own, working for farmers in and around the Viking area. Meanwhile, Joseph moved once again to Foisy. Albert loved horses and would ride his horse from Viking to Foisy, to see his parents. He went to work for Joe Brosseau, breaking horses and doing farm work.

Albert took up the sport of boxing in the St. Paul, Two Hills and Saddle Lake area. The winnings were small, but Albert enjoyed it. He still enjoys watching boxing and wrestling matches on T.V.

Albert met his future sweetheart, Agnes Smith, the only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W.M. Smith who was the Justice of the Peace in the Foisy district, and a former R.N.W.M. Policeman. They were neighbors, a short distance away, and whenever Agnes rode her horse to get the cows for milking, Albert would be watching and sort of saunter over, trying to get to know her better. A romance blossomed but the J.P. was having no part of this, as he was very strict and protective of Agnes. Albert was young and didn't have a farm or any cattle, so Mr. Smith put Agnes on the train for a holiday with her Uncle Matt, in Edmonton. However, Albert was on the same train and love won out. The young couple eloped and were married in Edmonton on Jan. 23, 1928. After a short honeymoon, they came home to a surprise kitchen shower at Mrs. Phoebe McCullough's, where friends and relatives gathered to welcome the young couple. Albert with his charming ways, soon won over his mother-in-law's heart and William soon discovered that Albert was the

perfect man in every way for his beloved daughter. Albert had given Agnes a 116 Brownie camera for her birthday, prior to their marriage, which she treasures, and says it still takes perfect pictures.

They took up farming on Uncle Matt's place, where they broke sod for their first crops. The days were long and hard, but very rewarding.

Their first pride and joy, Billie, was born on Nov. 4, 1928. Mrs. Alderic Paradis and Dr. Gagnon delivered him, while Albert and his mother-in-law paced around the barn. A year and a half later, they were blessed with a baby girl, June. In two years another little blonde girl, Myrtle, came along. Needless to say Agnes was busy washing diapers and helping on the farm. She always said "Too bad there were no pampers then". In 1935 another son, Clifford, was born, and he was the last baby to be born at home. They lived at Ben York's place for a short time while their house was being built at Foisy, on the farm which they had bought. Two years later, Marjorie was born in the St. Theresa Hospital in St. Paul, and was to be the baby of the family for seven years. When Kenneth was born in 1944, he was the apple of Albert's eye.



Mr. and Mrs. Albert Marsh on their 50th. wedding anniversary.
Taken in 1977 with all their children.

The children all attended Foisy and Lafond schools. Times were lean and everyone had chores to do. Agnes was kept busy cooking and sewing, but we always had three square meals a day and warm clothes.

Albert and Agnes had good neighbors and many nights were spent playing cards and having house parties.

The school picnics and especially the Indian Treaty Days were big events in the summer. In the winter, almost every Sunday night was a special treat we all remember that Mom and Dad gave to us, and that was the movie in Lafond in the church basement.

We would go to Grandma Smith most Sundays, and always on Christmas Day. Grandma always had a big turkey and all the trimmings and each had a gift under the colourful tree. We would go

to Grandma Marsh's for New Year's Day, about five miles away, and Mom would put hot bricks in the sleigh with the quilts to keep Jack Frost away. We always had a feast of roast goose and pudding. Christmas Eve was spent at our house with Aunt Rose and Uncle Ben and family. It was a happy time.

Aunt Rose always reciprocated and we spent New Year's Eve there, with lots of good food and laughs. Mom and Aunt Rose would always have our bachelor neighbor, Gordon Baillie, over to enjoy the festivities with us. He would always bring nuts and candies for us children.

In Nov. 1950 Dad went to work on the railroad in Valemont, B.C. However after a few months, he returned home to plan a wedding for his oldest son, Bill. Mom missed Dad, and never liked to be separated from him. It gives all of us kids a warm feeling to know how close our parents are, and how much they love each other.

In 1958, Mom was seriously ill and Dad wanted to take her to Edmonton, but Dr. Roland Decosse said she couldn't make the trip. Dr. Decosse did emergency surgery, and saved Mom's life. In Dad's anxiety, he mistakenly poured gas in the stove to light the fire and burned his right hand. He had third degree burns. With the boys at the barn, Dad quickly got a pail of snow and put his hand in it and drove the twenty miles to St. Paul hospital. Dr. Decosse said that was the right treatment, as it healed without blistering. Mom recovered after fifty-eight days. It was a very sad time for us all, but thanks to God, everything turned out well.

In 1959, Mom and Dad sold their Foisy farm to Ernest Ternovoy and retired in Ashmont on an acreage, where they hobby farm.



Mr. and Mrs. Albert Marsh with Billie, June, and Myrtle.

Mom and Dad worked at Mann Lake Beach in 1961, running the concession and taking care of the booth and cabin for seven years. It was an enjoyable time and many new friends were made.

Their fiftieth wedding anniversary was celebrated in Ashmont Hall in the late 1977, with family, friends and neighbors. It was a great time for all and Albert can't wait for his sixtieth.

Mom and Dad are kept busy with their six children, eighteen grandchildren and sixteen great-grandchildren visiting often. Dad loves animals, whether it be horses, cows, pigs, dogs or his favorite ginger cat, Fred.



Albert Marsh breaking land at W.C. Smith (grandpa's) place. Taken in 1926.

Mom and Dad enjoy a very active social life, with their many good friends, so this takes up a good deal of their time. So much time, in fact, that they have an on-going argument of whether Dad should buy another cow. Mom has always been a model wife and never nagged Dad, but it seems this cow affair has caused her to take a firm stand. We are sure the secret of their long and happy marriage probably has a great deal to do with compromising and respecting each other's wishes.

Children remember their parents in all kinds of different ways. We remember Dad always singing songs and whistling in the morning. Isn't that a nice way to wake up! We didn't need any F.M. Radio alarm.

Bill married Stella St. Jean (nee Jean) July 18, 1951. They have 7 children and 10 grandchildren. Lorraine married Gary Parenteau, Leane — Terry.

Allan married Debbie Chisan — Jeanine, Brandy, Kelly, Danny.

Margaret married John Chapko — Bobby Jo, Billie Jo, Amande.

Robert married Georgette Chrapko — Bryan.

Henry — single.

Doris — single.

Jo-Anne — At school.

June married Peter Lesyk (Pete deceased Aug. 27, 1977) on July 2, 1953. They have 2 children

and 1 grandchild Rodi.

Linda — Rodi.

Larry — Single.

Myrtle married Larry Gales Jan. 4, 1953. They have 4 children, 4 grandchildren

Douglas married Lynda Helisky — Sherry, Lisa.

Pamela married Fred Roberge — Jerney, Aaron.

Donald — single.

Joyce — single

Clifford married Ruth Korop Aug. 10, 1964. They have 3 stepchildren; Denis, Frank and Tommy.

Marjorie married Paul Jodoin, Sept. 8, 1956. They have 3 daughters and 1 grandchild.

Kathryn married Ronald Elder, son Kevin.

Patricia — single.

Susan — at home.

Kenneth married Gladys Norm, Oct. 18, 1964 and have 2 children Brenda and Kenneth Lee (Butch).

AN APRON FULL OF CHIPS

submitted by Agnes Marsh

Can it be all those years ago
Since I hurried to and fro
On a busy farm wife's day?
Dashed out to tend the clucking hens.
Feed the young pigs in their pens,
Then pursue the calf gone astray.

Ran for water — how many trips,
Paused each time for crisp dry chips —
A real big apron full.
Chips to bring the kettle to a boil
For a cup of tea amid my toil,
Those chores were plentiful
Sped to the garden armed with a hoe,
Hilled the potatoes row on row
With rank weeds came to grips,
pulled some rhubarb for a pie.

And as the woodpile I passed by
Grabbed an apron full of chips
Those sturdy aprons
Made of print or flour sack
Carried many a load
Round the barn yard and back.

Now I'm older, my slippers are black, I walk to the
corner and puff my way back.
I get up each morning
Dust off my wits.
Pick up the papers and read the orbits.
If my name is missing I know I'm not dead,
so I eat a good breakfast,
and go back to bed.

FOISY

submitted by Marj Jodoin

F — is for the families around here
O — is for old friends we hold dear
I — is for the interest we all shared
S — is for the success of those who cared
Y — is for you and yours and all our yesterdays

SENIOR CITIZENS VIEW OF LIFE

submitted by Agnes Marsh

There's nothing whatever the matter with me, I'm just as healthy as I can be. I have arthritis in both my knees, and when I talk, I talk with a wheeze. My blood is thin, and my pulse is weak, but I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.

My teeth have most, had to come out and my diet I hate to think about, I'm overweight and I can't get thin. My appetite is such that's sure to win, but I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.

Arch supports I have for my feet, or I wouldn't be able to go on the street. Sleep is denied me night after night and every morning I look a sight. My memory is failing, my head's in a spin. I'm practically living on aspirins. But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.

The moral is as this tale we unfold, that you and me who are growing old, it's better to SAY — I'm fine with a grin that to let them know the shape we are in.

How do I know that my youth has been spent? Because my get up and go, got up and went. But in spite of all that I'm able to grin when I think of where my get up and go has been.

Old age is golden, I've heard it said. But sometimes I wonder as I go to bed — my ears in a drawer, my teeth in a cup, my eyes on a shelf until I get up, ere sleep dims my eyes.

I say to myself. Is there anything else I could put on the shelf?

When I was young, my slippers were red. I could kick my heels right over my head. When I was older, my slippers were blue, but still I could dance the whole night through.

WILLIAM MARSH STORY

by William Marsh

Bill, oldest son of Albert Marsh and Agnes Smith was born on November 4, 1928 on a farm S.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ 6-56-11-4th., 4 miles N.W. of old Foisy store and Post Office.

At the age of 5 years, I moved with my parents to the old Ben York farm, 2 miles west and $\frac{1}{2}$ mile south of Lafond. I spent that summer fishing with old Ben York and bathing in Big Fish Lake, now known as Lac Santé.

I moved to the old Robinson farm with my parents in 1935 and started school in Foisy, in the spring of 1936, Miss Lucille Gagné being my first teacher. Miss Lucia Brosseau was my next teacher. I had a crush on Miss Brosseau but she ended up marrying René Robinson, and all I got out of it was cleaning the barn, for he had his saddle horse there often when he came to see Lucia. Other teachers were Mr. Morris McCullum, Mr. Albert Hohol, Mr. Louis Vogell. By then, teachers were hard to get due to the second World War, 1939-1945, so being of age to quit school, I helped Dad on the farm.

In the fall of 1950, I went to Prince George, B.C. to work with friends, Camille Paradis and John Chornohus.

I bought S.W. $\frac{1}{2}$ 33-56-11-4th in March of 1951 from Adam Skakun, and started farming with help from Robert Tomlinson who was soon to become my brother-in-law.

I married Stella St. Jean (née Jean) on July 18th., 1951.

I started working for Western Chemical in May, 1954. I worked there until June 27, 1980.

I sold my farm to Hervé Malo in 1957 and moved to Brosseau, where I bought a house from Mrs. Marie (Venne) Volk.

I could not get farming out of my system, so I bought S.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ 2-56-12-4th. from René Goudreau, the old Jean Baptiste Vincent farm, in February 1965. Having no farm machinery that spring, when I moved on to the farm I rented the land to Mr. Omer Thérout for three years. I farmed there until August, 1977, when I sold the farm and moved to St. Paul.

Stella and I raised a family of 9 children: Albert and Marcel St. Jean, two sons of Stella's previous marriage. Seven children born to Stella and I, 4 girls and 3 boys are:

Lorraine born June 22, 1953, now living in Edmonton.

Allan born April 6th., 1955, now living in St. Paul.

Margaret born July 10th., 1956, now living in St. Paul.

Robert born September 27, 1958, now living in Two Hills.

Henry born July 4th., 1960, now living in Two Hills.

Doris born November 27, 1961, living at home in St. Paul.

Joanne born October 7th., 1967 living at home in St. Paul.

Lorraine married Gary Parenteau, son of Oliver and Florence Parenteau of Fishing Lake, Alberta. Allan married Debbie Chison daughter of Vern and June Chison, Brosseau, Alberta.

Margaret married John Chrapko son of Sylver and Jean Chrapko, Foisy, Alberta.



Wedding of William and Stella (Jean) Marsh July 18th., 1951.

Taken at Cartier Community Hall. Head table — front row — left: Philias Jean, bride's father; Theodore Mercier, Mrs. Edith Smith, groom's grandmother; William Marsh, groom; Marcel St. Jean, his stepson; Stella (St. Jean, née Jean) Mrs. Mercier, partially shown, Albert Marsh, groom's father. Other side of head table — Mrs. Bernadette Malo, groom's godmother; André Jean, bestman; bride's brother; Marjorie Marsh, groom's sister, bridesmaid; Doris Marsh, bridesmaid, groom's sister; Donald Ternovoy, bestman; Mrs. Albert Marsh, groom's mother.

Robert married Georgette Chrapko daughter of Sylver and Jean Chrapko.

Albert St. Jean married Janice Peterson. They have 2 children and are living in Edmonton.

Marcel married Dianne Onechuk and they have a daughter, Kathy. Marcel is now living in Brosseau.

Henry, Doris and Joanne are now still at home. In St. Paul, I am working at A & A Surplus Store, as a clerk. I really enjoy this type of work, because it gives me the opportunity to meet so many people, old friends and new acquaintances.

Growing up in Foisy and living in Lafond, Brosseau and St. Paul has given me wonderful years to remember.

EMILE AND ANNIE MARYNOWICH

by Russell Paziuk

Emile Marynowich was born in the Ukraine in 1898, and in May of 1920 married Annie Krawchuk, who was born in 1899, also in the Ukraine. In 1928 at the age of 30, Emile left the Ukraine, his wife and four children, and migrated to Canada, landing up in the Morecambe area. Like many other fathers who left their families and homeland, Emile worked that first year for the local farmers, with the thought and hope of bringing his family to Canada. One year later, Emile's dream became a reality when Annie, daughter Tilly and sons Henry, Walter and Mike joined him in the Morecambe - Lac Bellevue area.

The next few years saw Emile and Annie working for local farmers and by the year 1934, they were able to purchase some land in the Lac Bellevue area. By this time Steve and Ester were born and the task of clearing the land, and raising a family had begun, only to end in tragedy a short time later. Mike, son of Emile and Annie recalls that there were approximately 13 acres cultivated on that farm when they purchased it and that the following year they were able to clear some 5 more acres. By the year 1935, Emile and Annie had two more children, Alex and Ernest. By this time they had a family of six boys and two girls.

Because the land was very much undeveloped, and more cultivated land was needed, Emile decided that mechanization would aid them with the difficult job of land clearing. The Marynowichs purchased a stump pulling machine (today it would be called a winch of sorts) which was operated by a team of horses and would greatly reduce the hard manual work that went into the pulling of the trees and stumps from the hard ground. In 1936, during one of these operations, the hook of the cable broke, causing the cable to spring, and strike Mrs. Marynowich. She was taken to hospital almost immediately by a neighbor, Mrs. D. Noel. The injuries were serious enough that after two weeks, and at the age of 37, Mrs. Marynowich passed away, leaving behind a husband and eight children, the youngest being 9 months.

As Tilly, then 14 years old recalls, "After mother's death, life had to go on and I took on the

responsibility of raising the children, being of a tender age myself, things were pretty tough and hard, looking back at it now. I don't know how I did it. I remember I cried every day that first year. Our neighbor, Annie Taschuk, showed me how to make bread. I baked about 8-10 loaves every 5-6 days, melted snow in the big barrel for the family washing, made a big garden every year, and little by little, my brothers and sisters grew up and helped some. It still brings tears to my eyes when I think of all the hardships we had, but in spite of it all, the children grew up, and in their early teens went to work."



Emile Marynowich with his son-in-law, Steve Szigethy, grandson, Joe Szigethy and his wife Jone. Taken in New Westminster, B.C. in 1978.

By 1940, the boys were old enough to handle farm equipment and began farming. Emile Marynowich worked for the C.P.R. in the summer of 1940 in the Lethbridge area and helped support his family back home with his 38¢ per hour wages. As years went by, the wages also became higher and in 1945 Emile Marynowich purchased a half section of land so that the boys could continue farming.

Emile was employed for the C.P.R. until the year 1957, then changed to another job in Edmonton as a janitor of the C.K.U.A. building. At age 63, Emile returned to St. Paul and lived there until October, 1966. After leaving St. Paul, and residing in Victoria, B.C., he then moved to Vancouver, B.C. As of this writing, Emile Marynowich lives in a senior citizens' home in New Westminster, B.C. As the year 1980 draws to a close Tilly (Sziglthy) lives in St. Paul, Henry in Terrace B.C., Walter in Powell River, B.C., Mike in St. Paul, Steve in Prince George, B.C., Ester (Reminsky) in New Serepta, Alta., Alex in Drayton Valley, and Ernest lives in Edson, Alta.

EDGAR THOMAS McCULLOUGH

by Edgar T. McCullough

My father was Thomas McCullough and my mother was Phoebe Woodhouse.

I was born on May 26th, 1916, six miles north of Brosseau, Alberta, in the Municipal District of Champlain.

My parents and grandparents, the Thomas McCullough's Sr. were farming there together.

I was the oldest, followed by a sister Nancy, then three brothers, Mark (died in 1922), Donald (Mac), Wayne, Annette (the youngest sister).



Annie Marynowich and her 4 children, prior to leaving Ukraine for Canada, in 1929. Children (L-R) are: Walter, age 4, Tillie, age 8, Mike, age 2 and Henry age 6.

My great grandparents Thomas McCullough emigrated to Canada from Northern Ireland during the potato famine in 1846. They settled at Parry Sound, Ontario.

My grandfather, Thomas McCullough was born there. As soon as he was old enough, he worked in logging camps. He married Cynthia Barnes. Nine children were born of this union, my father Thomas (Tom) being one. He was born at Parry Sound, Ontario.

In 1900, the family moved west. My father was then eleven years old. They first came to Edmonton, Alberta. One year later they lived in Lamont, then moved on to pioneer in Boyne Lake.

In 1913, my grandfather and my dad bought the "Bates" farm from Jack Forbes and went to live there in Champlain district.

My mother was born in Australia. When she was very young, her parents, the Frederick Woodhouse family returned to England. She had three sisters and one brother. They lived at Clapham Common, a suburb of London. There she received her education. In 1913 she emigrated to Canada. In Edmonton she worked as a missionary with the Anglican Church. Later on she worked at the hospital in Onoway, Alberta, then she taught school in the Peavine area, north of Sangudo. In 1915, she was teaching at the Champlain School. There she met my father and they were married, remaining on the farm with his parents.



Wedding of Edgar and Eugenie (Ouellet) McCullough on June 28, 1937.

My early recollections of living on that farm are happy ones. A growing boy could find much to do. I loved horses and spent a lot of time with them.

I recall when dad bought me a set of spurs. I was then attending school in Champlain, riding a distance of three miles. Nothing could persuade me to remove them in school. Sitting at my desk I couldn't resist jingling my spurs. My teacher was Dan Gamache and he would very quickly explode in exasperation. I was never given 'gold stars' for



May 6th, 1977. Edgar McCullough, Eugenie McCullough, Chief Deputy Minister for Social Services and Community Health Stanley Mansbridge, Lt. Gov. Ralph Steinhauer.

good conduct . . . but I often "Saw stars", when he'd lay one on me . . .

I remember a bit of mischief I got into when I was about five years old and my sister Nancy was three. There was a crew of wood-sawers at our place that day. Mom was busy preparing a meal. Upstairs there was a room where we kept odds and ends, I found some lampblack and oil. I mixed this and Nancy and I proceeded to paint the walls, standing on the bed to do so. Not only did we paint the walls but we painted each other. I did a superb job on Nancy, and she was really black with the whites of her eyes shining brightly through. Suddenly . . . Mom called us for dinner and I knew I would be in trouble, so I sent Nancy down first . . . There was an almost 'unearthly shriek' from my mother, then I was brought down. Well: my dad laughed so hard, but by then with dad and those sawers laughing so much, we two kids couldn't see anything funny about it.

For years no amount of Kalsomine seemed to cover the mess on the wall and the lampblack would keep coming through.



Eugenie and Edgar McCullough on their 43rd wedding anniversary June 28, 1980.

In the fall of 1925, when I was nine years old, an accident occurred in St. Paul. My dad had his leg broken when kicked by a horse. It was in a cast, so my mother and I took the wheat, cream, and a pig, to be sold in St. Paul.

We had a frisky team of horses hitched to the wagon, 'Spry' and 'Maud'! From the farm to St. Paul, all went well. Everything attended to, the horses rested, we started for home.

At that time St. Paul had a small power plant. As we approached, there were steam vapours coming from the plant, and the horses were skittish at this. Just beyond was a sawmill, and when the saw hit the wood and the horses heard this, they were gone like a shot.

Knowing that we could never hold them, we jumped and let them go. My mother's purse fell on the seat. Those horses went five miles west and were caught at Doucette School. The purse was lost. The following spring, one mile west of St. Paul, Mr. Charron's son was plowing the field and found the purse. It was returned to my grateful mother with all the money in it, which was over one hundred dollars, a small fortune then.

Whenever there was a cattle drive to St. Paul, when I was nine years old, dad would allow me to ride to help him. Our farm was close to the Saddle Lake Reserve. We would drive the cattle on a short cut across the Reserve to St. Paul. We knew many of the Indians, and they would come to our place to deal and trade or just to visit.

One of my jobs was to ride to get the mail. Mr. Aladin Foisy had the Post Office. On the way home I would deliver Bob Tomlinson Sr.'s mail and would always be rewarded with fifty cents or more.

The mail was of great importance at our house. Often, there would be letters and parcels from England, sent to us from my mother's folks. It was always an exciting time when mom would sit down and read aloud these letters from 'home'. My mother would also read many books to us, most

of these were sent from England. Many were adventure stories, such as the history of the early explorers. She instilled in me a sense of adventure, and an interest in my relatives across the sea.

We all enjoyed music, and my mother played the cello and sang very well. An evening's entertainment for neighbours and friends would consist of mom on the cello and everyone singing the old songs, followed by games. Sometimes small prizes were given to winners, adding to the fun.

When I was ten years old, I was given the opportunity to go and live with my grandmother and grandfather in England.

With some misgivings, but also a sense of adventure, mom and dad took me to Vegreville and put me on the train for Montreal. From there, I would go to New York and meet my mother's brother, uncle Tom. Together we would sail for England. My passport was dated June 4th, 1926.

The four following years, which I spent in England, were pleasant ones for me. I adapted very well, from a western type farm boy to what was considered proper British standards. I must admit there were some very tense moments when I had to discard western overalls, (jeans) for knee-breeches or (Knickerbockers). "I wasn't a bit impressed with the style."

My grandparents and aunts were very good to me and took an interest in my achievements. I joined the scouts and excelled in gymnastics. I was chosen along with sixty-four boys to give gymnastic displays on a tour to various parts of England. I was the only Canadian boy in the group.

My aunts and uncles took me on educational tours and holidays throughout England and Wales. These many pleasant holidays and excursions would leave me with a growing appreciation and enjoyment of travel that is still with me today.

Christmas in England was very festive. I could hardly wait to see what the family would send from Canada. I remember one Christmas Eve when I refused to attend the church service unless I were allowed to open one gift from home. My grandmother finally said I could. I was then satisfied to wait for the remaining gifts until all the aunts and uncles had gathered for Christmas dinner.

In 1929, my grandfather Woodhouse died. I stayed on with Grannie and aunt Nancy for a while but I returned to Alberta in August 1930.

There had been many changes! My folks were now living in the Chesterville district, five miles straight south of Lafond. The farm joined on to the Chesterville School land. I went to school there for a few months and then to Lafond School to take grade nine. The next year we moved to St. Paul and I finished grade ten. We returned to the farm in Chesterville and for awhile I stayed at home to help with the work.



Edgar McCullough with motor-bike in England, during World War II with the Canadian Army 4th Canadian Armoured Division R.C.A.S.C.

When I attended Chesterville School, I met Eugenie Ouellet, who later, became my wife. She along with her sister Therese, (who later married Dick Chester) went to school at the same time as I. Eugenie and I still see many of those 'kids', and we were happy to attend the Chesterville School Reunion held in Lafond in 1977.

In the 30's we were all in what is now known as "The great Depression." It was a hard time. In 1931 my dad was taken ill with typhoid fever, and was a long time recuperating. There was very little money. We were grateful for a milking cow, chickens, and a garden. Often I shot a partridge to add to the stew pot.

My grandparents McCullough were now retired Senior Citizens. They had also moved to the Chesterville district. Grandpa had built a more comfortable log shack situated on the edge of 'Les-sard Lake.' It was more like a pond than a lake. They were happy there and grandpa would grow a beautiful vegetable garden. My mother would go and wash clothes, and scrub the floor for them.

Grandmother passed away there, in that log house, at the age of seventy-nine years, on May 26th, 1936. (On my 20th birthday). My grandfather went to live with his daughter in Horse Hills, just out of Edmonton. In 1942 when he was eighty-four years old, he fell and broke a leg. He developed pneumonia and died.

Every fall when I lived in Chesterville, I would get a job on the threshing crew, working for Mr. Jack Chester. I think everybody enjoyed threshing time. Long hours, hard work, lots of good food, and we young man in our teens still took time to joke and laugh and play. By the flickering light of a coal-oil lantern, with a black sooty globe, we'd pull the harness off the horses, late at night if we were finishing a job. We would get the horses in the barn and fed, then be mighty glad to hit the 'hay' ourselves.

Sometimes, it just seemed as though we had only closed our eyes when, at the crack of dawn, we would hear that call. "Time to get up boys." Dick Chester would soon have the tractor humming, his dad would operate the separator. Horses hitched to the wagons and back in the field, another good day had started.

In 1935 and 1936, I was hired as a farm hand by Tom Callahan of Brosseau. Tom was a good man, well known and liked by all his neighbours. He was a long-time friend of the family and working for him was a pleasure.

On January 4th, 1936, my sister Nancy was married to Bill Kaybidge. They went to live on Bill's farm in the Brosseau area. Soon after this my dad went working at Lamont, Alberta and my mother and the three youngest children moved away from Chesterville to Edmonton.

On June 28th, 1937, Eugenie Ouellet and I were married in St. Bernard's Catholic Church at Lafond, by Rev. Father Paul Mailloux. There was a reception and dance held for us at Eugenie's parents home in Chesterville. Mrs. Simon, with her son George and daughter Angèle, then went to join Mr. Simon in Rossland, B.C. where he was employed in carpenter work. We newlyweds, lived in their house and worked the farm, until their return in the fall.

In 1938, we moved to Edmonton where I worked for Jack Smith painting houses and apartments. On July 23rd, 1939 our first son Richard was born in Edmonton.

In 1940 we moved to Lafond. Mr. Oliver Foisy had a trucking business and I was hired to drive for him. Mostly, it was hauling cattle to the plants in Edmonton. It was long hours and long hauls, in those days over mostly dirt roads. After a heavy rain, it wasn't fun to be in the mud, with a full load of cattle or hogs.

On September 27th, 1941 our younger son, Donald was born in St. Paul Hospital, and I enlisted in the Canadian Army (active). I was sent to Camrose for basic training, then I went to Trade School in Red Deer and Calgary. My wife and sons moved to Edmonton, making it easier for me to see them on weekend passes. Soon I was posted to Debert N.S. On September 1942, I went over-seas with the Fourth Canadian Armoured Brigade R.C.A.S.C. We sailed in convoy of sixty-six ships from Halifax Harbour.

Arriving in England was like home for me. My grandmother Woodhouse and my three aunts were alive and well. Grannie would insist that I spend all my "leaves" with her. It felt good to have family to go to on a pass, and I often took a Canadian buddy along.

My dad was also in the army serving with the Forestry Corps, and stationed in Scotland. I was able to visit him, and my brother (Mac) who was then in England with "The Canadian Corps of Signals." Mac was later sent to serve in Italy, then back into France.

England at this time was all blacked out during "The Blitz". It was a bad time for everyone. Sirens wailing day and night, buzz-bombs overhead, bomb shelters, with people crowding and sleeping in them, waiting for the 'all clear' . . . As the months went by, it became a way of life.

We trained extensively, day after day, to be ready when our turn came. Once in a while, I would run into someone from Lafond. Once, when I was riding a motorcycle and directing a convoy of trucks, I rode up behind a truck and raised my goggles, and looked into Germain Gagné's face. Imagine my surprise, because I did not know that he was in the army.

To anyone in the Armed Forces during the war, the mail was all important. Throughout those years, receiving letters, parcels, and cigarettes, from loved ones brought pleasure and happiness. My wife wrote regularly. If the mail was delayed for various reasons I would receive them in bunches. Often for me, there would be letters postmarked, Lafond, Alberta. The miles between would slip away in my enjoyment of news from family and friends.

Late in 1943 I had a bad accident on my motorcycle. I was in the hospital for some weeks, with a broken leg, a crushed foot, cuts and bruises. After convalescing, I was sent to a 'holding unit', and attached to the '85th Canadian Bridge Coy' . . . I was sergeant for (F and H Platoon). These were mostly French Canadian boys from Quebec. They were a mighty fine platoon and nothing ever daunted them. They were always ready to go.

We sailed for France and were in the 'Normandy Landings.' We built the first bridge in Caen. Here along with thousands of other soldiers, we had out 'baptism of fire.' We served on different sectors. Sometimes attached to the British, other times to a Polish division, and also called to serve with the Americans. Wherever there was a river, road, or a canal that required a 'Bailey Bridge', we would be assigned to that position. We were involved in such places (to name a few) the Seine, the Somme, Leopold Canal, Ghent Canal, Nijmegen, and Arnhem.

On Christmas Day 1944, we were at Venlo, and New Year's Day 1945, we were in 'The Ardennes (Battle of the Bulge) with the Americans. With the crossing of the Rhine River in March 1945, we were an excited bunch of men, for now it seemed the end was finally near. By April we were in Rethem. Then after bridging the Elbe River, which was completed on May 3rd., the platoon received orders to proceed to Sulingen, and to stand by . . . There on May 8th 1945, we were informed "The War" was over. We celebrated with a cup of tea. For six weeks we hauled supplies in Germany and Holland and then prepared to wait our return to Canada. I arrived in Edmonton on October 6th, 1945. Words cannot express the blessings and happiness of a family reunited.

In the fall of 1944, my youngest brother, Wayne had joined a Paratrooper unit and trained at Camp Shilo, Manitoba. He completed his training and received his 'Wings' at the Parachute Training School. The war ended before he was shipped overseas. He remained with his unit for more than a year and they went across Canada giving jump displays. Eugenie and I took our two sons to see them jump at the Municipal Airport in Edmonton in 1946.

After I was discharged from the army, I took one month's holiday and we visited family and

friends at Lafond. It seemed strange at first to be a civilian after four years in the army. My first job was working for the Hudson Bay Co. After six months, I was accepted on the city of Edmonton Fire Department and stayed on for three years.

In 1949, I applied for the position as Manager of the Centre at Gunn, Alberta and we moved there on February 14th, 1949. We stayed with this job with the Dept. of Social Services and Community Health, Government of Alberta for twenty-eight years. The site of the Gunn Centre is beautifully located on the North shore of Lac Ste. Ann. Throughout the years, the institution was developed to accommodate the residents of more than one hundred men, in comfort and dignity. A staff was employed and a good working relationship established to serve the Centre and the residents.

The years were rewarding ones for us as a family. We enjoyed our work and liked living in a small community. Our sons went to school in Gunn and to High School in Onoway, a distance of seven miles from Gunn. We were involved in church and community life. On the occasion of the one hundredth anniversary of the Confederation of Canada in 1967, I received the Centennial Medal.

In 1971, for three weeks, Eugenie and I took a trip to England. After visiting relatives, we spent a week in London and crossed over into France. In 1973, we toured Europe going to Rome, Venice, Paris and London. We visited the Canadian War Cemeteries in Sicily, Italy, France and Holland. We have crossed our own great country of Canada from coast to coast.

In April 1977, I retired as manager of the Gunn Centre and we moved to Edmonton, where we now reside. Two months later I started to work with the Corps of Commissionaire, in a semi-retired situation. My job is at the Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium. It is a pleasant and interesting place to work.

In 1979 Eugenie and I celebrated our 42nd wedding anniversary in Dublin City in the Republic of Ireland. In 1980 we enjoyed beautiful Hawaii and visited most of the islands, and now look forward to travelling again, "God Willing."

Our two sons are married and we take great pleasure in our family reunions and in our six grandchildren.

Our oldest son, Richard married Mary Dubovsky of Onoway, Alberta on June 24th, 1961. They have four children (three daughters, one son): Colleen, Deanna, Shelly, and Mark. They reside in Edmonton and Richard is employed with Edmonton Power.

Donald married Phyllis Duncan of Fort McMurray on February 27th, 1965. They have two children, one boy and one girl: Cary and Laurie. Don's employment is with Alberta Power and they reside in High Level, Alberta.

My mother, Phoebe Maude McCullough, died May 5th, 1971, at the age of 75 years.

Their children:

Edgar married Eugenie Ouellet, June 28th, 1937. They have two sons Richard and Donald.

Nancy married Bill Kaybridge, January 4th, 1936 (four girls and two boys): Charlotte, Lorette, Marlene, Rodney, Dawne, and Reece died in 1968. Nancy and Bill reside in Canyon Creek, Alberta.

Donald (Mac) married Norma Cummings, July 10th, 1948, (four boys and three girls): Jean, Mark, David, Debbie, Laura, Jimmy, and Robert. Mac and Norma reside in Sherwood Park, Alberta.

Wayne married Eleanor Laderoute, February 4th, 1950, (four girls and one boy): Lynne, Gail, Lana, Reagan, and Candace. Wayne and Eleanor reside in Slave Lake, Alberta.

Annette married George Ambler, November 4th, 1951 (two girls and one boy): Phoebe, Betts and Jack. Annette and George reside in Edmonton, Alberta.

FRANCIS AND SARAH M^CGAUGHEY

by Sarah McGaughey

Francis McGaughey emigrated to Canada in 1928, to join his brother Michael, who came the previous year to settle in St. Brides.

He and his partner Jim Welsh, who has now passed away, helped finish St. Brides Church, and build the convent, the Sisters of Service's residence.

In 1932, he married me, Sarah Logue, who also came to Canada with her family, the Logues in 1927.

Frank worked for the Department of Public Works, on the highways for a period of time.

In 1940, he joined the Royal Canadian Army and went overseas. The family then moved to Edmonton, Alberta.

Upon returning in 1945 he got a job as a carpenter with the Federal Government, at the Charles Camsell Hospital, and worked there for 23 years, until his retirement at age 65 years in 1968. In 1945, the family moved to Beverly, which is now Edmonton, and purchased a house and 3 lots of land.

In 1954, Frank built a new house, in which he and I, his wife still reside.

We have a family of four children. Mary married John Yuzwenko, living in Edmonton, Alberta. They have 6 children.

Christopher married Ruth Olsen living in Edmonton. They have one child.

Ethna married Robert MacDonald living in Edmonton. They have 6 children.

Edmond is living in Edmonton, with 3 children. We also have 2 great grandchildren.

THE M^CGONIGAL FAMILY

by Patrick F. McGonigal

Patrick McGonigal was born in Loughgaville, Ireland April 28, 1881. Rosetta McAllister was born in Glenariffe, Ireland November 8, 1882. They met and were married June 7, 1905 in Cushendall, Ireland. Father was a farmer there before leaving for Canada.



Mrs. McGonigal family reunion — 1967.

They left Belfast May 19, 1927 sailing on the Metagama ship, arriving in Quebec June 6, 1927. Arrived in St. Paul June 17, 1927.

They brought with them a family of 10 children, leaving one daughter Mary behind and one son who died Aug. 8, 1925. We settled on a farm in St. Brides and Dad went out to work for farmers in the Warwick district for the first year after we were here. He then became the first bonded mail carrier, hauling the mail from St. Paul and Ashmont to St. Brides, to the post office owned and operated by Joseph Bell.

Mother was midwife to most of the children born to the settlers in the district.

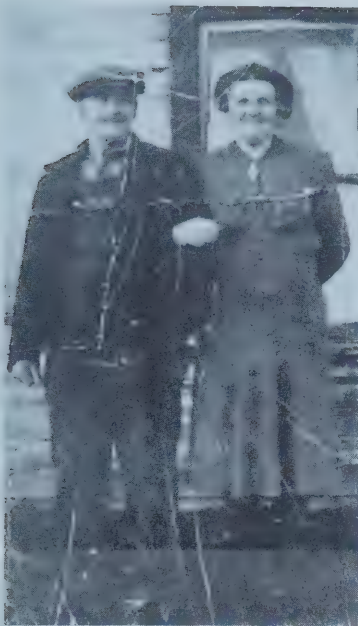
Our farm had the first ball diamond and picnic area with a lot of good times had there.

There were 16 children, 12 born in Ireland and four here in St. Brides.

John the oldest was born Sept. 25, 1906 and died Aug. 8, 1925 in Ireland.

Annie the second was born Feb. 29, 1908. She married Patrick McMullan Oct. 24, 1926 in Cushendall. He was a seaman working as a steam engineer in the Merchant Marines. They came to Canada on the same ship as the rest of the family. Annie still resides in Edmonton.

Mary the fourth was born Jan. 12, 1911. She married Malichi McFall and stayed in Ireland. They had 4 children. One son now living in Montreal. Mary came for her first visit to Canada in 1967. A family reunion was held in St. Brides where all 14



Patrick and Rosetta
McGonigal.

brothers and sisters attended with their families and many friends. A good time was had by all. Mary died in Ireland Oct. 1, 1977.

Bernard the fifth was born Aug. 29, 1912. He married Mary Ellen O'Neill and they had 4 children. Bernard served in World War 2. After returning he took over the postal haul from his Dad and eventually became the post master. He is retired as a post master but is still operating his farm and driving a school bus in St. Brides.

Archie the sixth was born Oct. 8, 1913. He married Ellie Kirkpatrick and they had 5 children. Archie and Ellie farmed before moving to Edmonton. Archie is now deceased and Ellie is living with one of her daughters in Edmonton.

Rosetta the seventh was born Feb. 11, 1915. She worked for years at the Hudson Bay then at Veterans Home for 10 years, until her illness caused her retirement. Rosetta died June 8, 1980.



Rev. Bussiere, Mrs. McGonigal daughter Mary from Ireland. Son Patrick, wife Elizabeth.

Charlie the eighth was born June 8, 1916. He married Margaret Smallwood and they have 4 children. Charlie served in World War 2. Then after the army he worked on the pipeline and later for the City of Edmonton. Charlie and Margaret are residing in Edmonton.

Thomas the ninth was born Jan. 14, 1918. He married Elsie Zaleski and they have 10 children. Thomas served in World War 2 and the Korean War. After the war Thomas went to work for the main post office in Edmonton until his retirement. Thomas and Elsie reside in Edmonton.

Denis the tenth was born June 22, 1920. He married Betty Zaleski and they have 2 children. Denis is working for the city of Windsor, Ontario, where they are still residing.

Joseph the eleventh was born Nov. 8, 1921. He worked in B.C. for awhile then returned to the farm. He died in 1968.

Enis the twelfth was born Aug. 19, 1923. He married Josephine Devlin and they have 5 children. Enis worked on the pipeline and bush camp in Edson. He then came back to his present farm, working seasonally for Belcourt Telephone and K & K builders. Enis and Josephine are residing in St. Brides.

John the thirteenth was born July 28, 1927. John was the second child born in St. Brides after the arrival of the settlers. John worked on the pipeline, then for the city of Edmonton until his death in Aug. 1979.

Dan the fourteenth was born Nov. 19, 1929. Dan worked on the pipeline then for the city of Edmonton where he still is employed.

Theresa the fifteenth was born Aug. 11, 1931. Theresa married Denis Duffy and they have 6 children. Theresa worked for the school board in Edmonton where she and Denis reside.

Neil the sixteenth was born Aug. 27, 1934. He married Mona Johnson and they have 2 children. Neil works for the city of Edmonton, since leaving St. Brides.

Dad and Mother are now deceased. Dad died April 8, 1949 and Mother June 5, 1977.

Myself, Patrick the third oldest born Nov. 6, 1909. I married Elizabeth O'Neill Nov. 25, 1937 and we have 5 daughters and 11 grandchildren.

After arriving in St. Brides, I worked on the railroad between Abileen to Bonnyville then to Sask. I later broke land with Pete Hunt's McCormick tractor and plow for McGuire, O'Conner, Lavery and Joe Kirkpatrick. We moved to our present homestead in 1939 which was previously used by the Grey Nuns. I operated the farm and worked out on the pipeline then on road construction, building the highway from St. Paul. Later working on the construction on the Old Treasury Branch in St. Paul. Elizabeth and I are now retired, still on our homestead.

JULIA AND ROGER McMILLAN

by Julia McMillan

Julia and Roger McMillan are two of the pioneer teachers in the Lac Bellevue, Lake Eliza area. Julia was born on the Annie and Ignace Gadowski home place one mile north of Lac Bellevue Hall. Roger came to the area in 1943 and first taught school for four years at Swedeboro School. At the same time Julia taught at Lake Eliza School.

Julia and Roger were married June 6, 1947 at Lac Bellevue. In 1948 they bought the original George Kaszefski place from Mr. and Mrs. Tom Rawluk, and their son, John.

Julia and Roger, and their family of two children still maintain their farm, although they never lived on it. After teaching a combined total of seventy-two years, they retired from active teaching in June, 1980, to reside in Myrnam. At present, 1981, they are both employed by Lakeland College at St. Paul.



Left to Right: Eli and his wife Irene, Dennis and Lorna, Roger and Julia with granddaughter Krystyna Robin. Another granddaughter Juliana Kathryn, has since arrived.

MIKE (MAKAR) MELNICHUK AND FAMILY

by Jean Gunby

My dad, Mike, was born in the village of Bilka, Ukraine, where he worked as a farmer, blacksmith, and shoemaker. He emigrated to Canada in 1927, and worked around Mundare where he met and married a widow Pauline (Yawney) Holowaychuk, who had three children: Nick, 11; Ann, 7; and Edward, 5. He took a homestead in Lake Eliza, built a log cabin, and moved his family there with great hopes for the future. They had three more children: Jean, born February 20, 1929; Mary (Marian) born October 21, 1934; and John, who died as an infant in 1939.

Mother had raised the three kids in town, so when it came time to send them to school at Lake Eliza, she dressed Nick in his best Sunday clothes



Family reunion at Jean Gunby's place 1972. Nick was unable to attend.

(knee pants, knee-high socks, and highly-polished shoes). Taking Ann by the hand, he walked into the schoolyard feeling very important. He was met by a bunch of older boys dressed in bib-overalls, work boots or bare feet, who stood and laughed at him, then proceeded to take Nick's pants off. He fought like a tiger — he said he had to because he had no underwear on — and managed to hold his own. From that day on, he was one of the boys, but he never wore his town clothes to school again.

With the help of Mother, Nick, and many helpful neighbors, Dad cleared enough land with axes and horses to be able to survive.

Times were hard then, and everyone had to pitch in. Nick quit school after Grade 8 to help on the farm. I remember a big stone mill in the middle of our kitchen, with Dad turning the big rocks to make flour. I also remember many delicious rabbit stews; little did I know that if Dad or Nick hadn't shot that rabbit, we wouldn't have had meat that day.

But there were happy times, too. Dad was a musician, and played his violin or accordion at many gatherings where everyone danced and sang and forgot their hardships. I remember when there was an Amateur Night at Lake Eliza Hall and everyone was asked to participate. Dad decided the whole family should sing as a group. Needless to say, I got many a cuff on the ear before I got the tune right. But I do believe we got first prize.

I also remember when I was about 6 or 7, I was able to help out mostly by babysitting Marian. One day the family went to the field and left me at home, looking after Marian. A big thunderstorm with strong winds came along, and I was so scared I took Marian and a quilt and crawled under the bed to hide from the storm and we fell asleep. When the family came home, the roof was off the barn, and we were nowhere to be found. They searched



The Jean Gunby Family 1962. L-R: back row: Debby, Jerry, Jean, Glenna, front row: Bob, Holly and Bernie.

the yard, the woods, and the neighbors' places, and were frantic by the time we woke up and crawled out from under the bed with Marian howling from hunger. I remember Mom saying she was looking down the well when she heard the baby's cry coming from the kitchen. They all hugged and kissed us, so happy that we were safe, but then I got a spanking for scaring them so badly.

Money was scarce in those days. Ann quit school and went to work housekeeping (where I believe she was paid in second-hand clothes). Eventually, she got a job in St. Paul where she made a good salary. Nick would take his favorite team of horses (Jack and Jenny) and do custom work during harvest for about \$2 a day. Ed and I helped Dad in the field. In 1941, Dad enlisted for active service in the Canadian Army, but was unable to meet the required military physical standard.

Mother's health had been failing for several years. When I was 16 and going to high school in Myrnam, Mom passed away at the age of 44 (1945). That fall, I went to Alberta College in Edmonton, so Dad and Marian were all alone. He stayed on the farm for a couple of years, then decided it was too lonely a life for Marian and let her go to live with her sister Ann. Shortly after, he moved to Drumheller and worked in a coal mine. Coal mining didn't appeal to him, so a year later he moved back to the farm. After several lonely years on the farm, he sold his land and moved to Myrnam, where he took up blacksmithing, and then eventually retired. He spent the last 7 years of his life at Eagleview Lodge where he passed away on November 1, 1978 at the age of 79.

Nick Holowaychuk — married Jean Rawluk when he was 24 years old. They moved to Edmonton, and then to Hamilton where he worked in a foundry during the war years. They returned to Alberta, to Drumheller where their son Melvin was

born. Jean passed away when Melvin was 5 years old. Nick then married Lil (Jurik) Hendricks, who had a daughter Naomi, the same age as Melvin. Several years later, they had a son, Tony. Nick worked for many years out of Edmonton as a boiler-maker. He and Lil retired in Sooke, British Columbia, and now have two grandchildren, Drew and Deana, born to Naomi and Ron Ponech. Ann Holowaychuk (Wohlgemuth) — married Albert Wohlgemuth in Edmonton and they moved to Hamilton, where Albert worked in a foundry during the war. They moved back to Drumheller, where their son Ed was born, then to Edmonton, where a second son Richard was born. Ann and Albert presently live at Wabamun, Alberta. They have 7 grandchildren: Dawna and Shawn, born to Betty Ann and Don Thirlwell; Kari and Dean, born to Eddy and Chris Wohlgemuth; Glenn, Michael, and Lynne, born to Richard and Terry Wohlgemuth.



Mike Melnichuk



Pauline Melnichuk

Edward Holowaychuk (Holloway) — Ed left home at an early age to work as a farmhand. He moved to Hamilton and worked in a foundry for a short while, and then joined the Merchant Marine for the duration of the war. After the war, he was hired as Captain of a whaleboat out of British Columbia. He was married there and has two children, Irene and Charlie. His marriage broke up and he moved to the United States, still whaling, where he met his present wife Ilene. They now have a daughter, Lisa. Ed is now a Captain for an off-shore drilling company. They live in Willamina, Oregon.

Jean Melnichuk (Gunby) — completed a year of college and went to work for Fuller and Belzil in St. Paul as a secretary. She later did secretarial work in Edmonton, and then in Drumheller, where she was married and had three children: Glenna, Debby, and Bernadette. Her marriage broke up and she took a job as Secretary-Treasurer of the East Smoky School Division in DeBolt, Alberta. She met and married Jerry Gunby and they had two more children: Holly and Bob. They live on a farm at DeBolt, and now have 6 grandchildren: Dale and



Marion Melnichuk at far left Lil and Nick at their Wedding Dance.

Troy, born to Glenna and Elden Venning; Connie, Todd, and Deana, born to Debby and Allan Dievert; Cody, born to Bernadette and Dean Chapman. Holly is now married to Morgan Flaherty, and Bob is still single.

Mary (Marian) Melnichuk (Swizinski) — went to high school in Drumheller, where she met and married Martin Swizinski. They moved to Lethbridge, where two of their children, Jim and Gail were born. Then, they moved to Elsa, Yukon, where two more daughters, Shari and Patricia, were born. They now reside in Penticton, British Columbia. Their daughter Shari is married to Andy Gallacher. The other three children are still single.

JEFF AND DAWNA MICHAUD

by Dawna Michaud

Jeff: I was born at St. Vincent, Alberta, raised in St. Lina. My father was Aime Michaud, I was one of 10 children. My father farmed and we were all involved in the large mixed farming operation. I finished my grade 12 at Mallaig School, and moved to Edmonton to seek my fortune.

I spent two years working in warehousing at MacCosham's where I met my wife Dawna. We were married a year later. After trying a few other occupations, I started apprenticing as an electrician. The next seven years saw me complete my apprenticeship and my Masters in electricity.

Dawna: I was born in Westlock Alberta, but moved to Edmonton at an early age. I am the youngest of three girls. My father, Vern Archer was a mechanic for the City of Edmonton until his retirement. I grew up in the city except for four years spent on an acreage. My insatiable love of animals prompted the family move there. They were the most enjoyable years of my early life. My father's ill health forced us to move back into the city. I vowed I would one day again live in the country.

In 1975 real estate sky-rocketed, enabling us to sell our home for almost twice what we paid for it. We spent weekends searching for a small farm. An obscure tip brought us to the Mike Serniak farm. (formerly owned by his mother Vera Serniak). The farm was small, moderately priced and had a good house. We made an offer and Mike accepted. On Oct. 1, 1975 we took up residence at S.E. 6-57-8-4.

Jeff worked as an electrician for Sunlite Electric of St. Paul, and I started collecting livestock as fast as I could. Jeff started his own electrical business in August of 1976, and has been well supported by our community.

Our first 18 months on our farm kept us going every spare minute. We had horses, two milk cows and calves, chickens and rabbits. Pigs were next on my list. We had to build pens, rearrange fences, redo the barn for stalls, the work was endless and wonderful.

It was during our second year in the community, the raw quarter of land across the road sold to Merv and Marie Yuschyshyn. Upon meeting them, we found that they too had been courting a dream similar to ours. That was the beginning of a deep friendship between our two families. Marie and I soon became cohorts in castastrophe! Our ideas ran wild, and together we would try anything. Our first project was what I call the 'Great Egg Disaster'. Spring fever had us trying to incubate and hatch our own chicks. Some 300 eggs later we had 7 chicks! We gained valuable experience, and had a lot of fun. Our fever carried us with undaunted optimism into one fix after another, year after year. The two families built and rebuilt two farms with astonishing speed and populated both copiously with as many varieties of livestock as we could find. We learned all about farming as we literally buried ourselves in the 'manure pile' and dug ourselves out again. We were blessed with neighbors who had carved this community out of the wilderness. We turned to them time and time again for help and advice.

The Yuschyshyns and Michauds have a keen interest in seeing all aspects of farming done the 'old way'. We were lucky to have many sources of knowledge and information. We have experienced many of the old customs from butchering a hog to getting a binder and threshing machine going. In these days, time rushes by so quickly and the new

becomes obsolete, replaced by newer and better. It was a thrill to gather with our neighbors and step into 'yesterday'. Our children have had opportunities to see and do things which will soon be lost in time forever.

This is our fifth year in the community. Our farming interests are as keen as ever, and leaning decidedly towards dairying. The business and the farm keep our entire family quite active! We've had a few difficult times, but they were far overshadowed by our good friends and neighbors and pioneers of this area.

THE MILAN FAMILY

by Russell Pazuik



John Milan with his children. L-R: Olga, Walter, Mike.

John and Eugene Milan, accompanied by their mother Victoria, arrived in Canada shortly before 1927. John, the older of the two sons, homesteaded S.W. 21-56-9-W4, which he registered on July 13, 1927. Eugene settled on N.W. 27-56-9-W4, and registered this on July 11, 1928.

Eugene moved from the Lac Bellevue homestead to Edmonton in 1944, then moved to British Columbia, where he was employed in a paper mill at Fort Nelson, in September 1951.

Their mother, Victoria, lived with John Milan at Lac Bellevue, and passed away in November,



L-R: John Milan, Joe Linkewich, Eugene Milan.

1935. She was buried at St. Michael's Cemetery, Lac Bellevue.

Eugene married Mary Linkewich on November 15, 1934. They had five children. In order of age, they were: John, Frank, Lillian, Pauline, and Raymond. Raymond was the only one not born while the family farmed at Lac Bellevue. The two elder sons attended Lac Canard School.



John Milan's children when they were small. 1st row, top, Walter Milan, Annie Linkewich (Nee Gadowski) Walter Linkewich. 2nd row, Frances Linkewich (Nee Letniak) Mike Milan, Olga Milan (Cook). 3rd row, Johnny Milan, Frank Milan, John Linkewich. 4th row, Lillian Milan (Nee Visnoski). Picture taken in front of Eugene and Mary Milan's house at Lac Canard, now St. Paul in summer of 1940, not long after a hail storm, John Milan's children Walter, Mike and Olga were all born on the farm at Lac Bellevue and went to Lac Canard school.

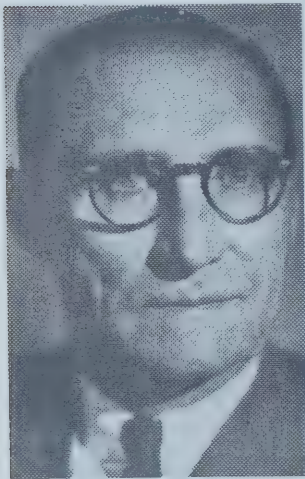
Eugene Milan passed away in 1973. Mary later moved to Pit Meadows, British Columbia, and is presently living there.

John Milan left the Lac Bellevue area for Edmonton, and then moved to British Columbia, two years before his brother Eugene. The John Milan family had four children: Stanley, Walter, Mike, and Olga. All the children are living in British Columbia, except Stanley who died while in training during World War II.

John's wife died in 1953, and John passed away in January 1964.

GEORGE C. MOXAM

by Ray Labrecque



George C. Moxam M.L.A.

George, his wife and 2 daughters Myrtle and Hazel settled on the N.W. 18-56-10-4 in about 1932 and lived there till the end of the depression. Then they moved to Edmonton where he raised pigs, and later had a potato farm. Later they moved to Vancouver in about 1945 and Mr. Moxam became a member of Parliament. He has now passed away, but we don't have any definite date.

JOE MUCHKA

by Joe Muchka

Joe was born and raised in Trochu, Alberta, where he farmed with his father until 1956. He then moved to Edmonton and became involved in the oilfield. In 1963, he married Pauline Dorner secretary, who originated from Foremost, in southern Alberta, near the Montana Border. When they first married, they lived in Edmonton and Joe continued in the oilfield. Pauline worked as a secretary until 1964 when their first son, Bradley, was born. The family then moved to Calgary, where Joe was employed in long distance trucking across Canada. In 1965, their second son, Bryan was born. Joe became unhappy in trucking, as this took most of his time,

away from home, and he began looking for something more of a family life.

In 1968, he purchased a 1/2 section of land from Maurice and Rose Guindon in Lafond. With a minimum amount of money, he rented a small amount of land to subsidize his investment. Along with this, he started a hog enterprise and a cattle feed lot. Prices on farm products hit a very low which forced Joe back to the oilfield.

Along with the aid of very good neighbors, Pauline continued feeding hogs and cattle.

In 1970, their daughter Joanne was born. Still dissatisfied with farm prices, Joe was determined to be at home with the family.

Therefore, he discontinued hogs and feeder cattle, rented more land up to a point of 13 quarters, with the aid of hired farm help. He also started a cow-calf operation.

The cow-calf operation proved quite successful, therefore, Joe gave more attention to producing better crops on less acres.

Today Joe owns 5 quarters of land along with his cow-calf operation.

PETER AND ANNE MYCHALUK

by Olga Gregor (nee Mychaluk)

It has been known that throughout generations, there are two things we can give our children; "roots and wings."

My father crossed the great waters twice before settling in Canada. He was born Peter Mychaluk in Burdeui, Austria in 1893. His parents were Issac and nee Mary Skakun. Issac was born in 1866 in Czernowitz, Roumania. At the age of thirteen, along with his parents and sister Ernestine, they emigrated to Argentina.

In the year of 1914, the family had emigrated to Canada, settling briefly in the Lafond area. It seemed not too long after Issac's wife Mary died, in her early forties. Ernestine married shortly after and settled with her own duties. The two men then made another move. Here they purchased a homestead at the Lake Eliza district, S.E. 3-56-8-W4.

In 1923, my parents married; the former Anne Hawreluk, eldest of nine children. Anne had emigrated from Miklazowie, Poland at the age of 6 in 1913.

Two years followed when the eldest Pauline was born, followed by Mary, a son who died as an infant. I, Olga, came three years later. Billy four years my junior who, at the age of fourteen, met a fatal accident, along with his friend Bill Feniak.

I pursued my independence at an early age. I made my home and worked in Edmonton, Yellow Knife, N.W.T., and Eldorado, Saskatchewan. There I met my husband, then twenty-six years old. We were married in 1955 in one of the first and oldest Edmonton's McDougall's United Church. We briefly



Peter and Anne Mychaluk (1952), picture taken in front of the Hawryluk home.

made our home in Lethbridge, Alberta. We then moved to Campbell River where we stayed for two years, then moved into Vernon. In 1957, our son Brent was born and once more we moved back to Campbell River. Three years later, our daughter, Noreen was born, followed by our youngest, Clayton, a year later. In 1968, we once more longed for the north, this time, Hudson's Hope, B.C. In 1970 we settled down in our new home in Maple Ridge where we presently reside. We are awaiting our first grandchild from our son Brent and daughter-in-law Dianne. Our fifth generation starts.

NADEAU, MAURICE AND MARGUERITE AND FAMILY

by Marguerite Nadeau

I am Marguerite Julianna (Robinson) Nadeau, daughter of Laurent and Jeannette Robinson. I left home in 1958 and worked in various places, such as Foisy, Cartier, and St. Paul. I also spent five years working for Mr. and Mrs. Rene Robinson in Saddle Lake. They were like second parents to me. I left them to spend some time in Vancouver, then



Maurice Nadeau and Marguerite (Robinson) Wedding Day, July 15, 1967.

returned and worked for them for another year. After that, I spent some time in Swan Hills, Edmonton, and Picardville. It was in Picardville that I met Maurice Nadeau, and we were married on July 15, 1967.

Maurice's father owned the Red and White store in Picardville, which had living quarters attached. We lived there until October 1968, and during this time, Maurice worked in Westlock. Then he was laid off. There was no work to be found in the Westlock area, so we moved to St. Paul, where Maurice did find work.

We rented a farmhouse from Mike Slefendurfas until the farm was sold. We then moved into the convent in Lafond. We enjoyed living there, although it was a large place to care for, and very expensive to heat. This was our home from December 1968 to January 1969.



Romaine 12 and Randy 16, children of Maurice Nadeau.

On December 28, 1969, our first daughter, Romaine Janette, was born. In February 1969, we moved into my aunt's house in St. Paul, where we stayed for four months.

Maurice got a new job with Fountain Tire in Edmonton, in their north side store. As we did not want to live in the city, we rented a house in Morinville. It was at this time that Maurice adopted my son, Randy, who had been living with us since our marriage.

Our second son, Raymond, was born February 20, 1970.



Nicole 5 and Raymond 10, children of Maurice Nadeau.

In October 1971, Maurice was transferred to Westlock, and we rented a house downtown for three years. Our fourth child, Nicole, was born January 8, 1974, while we were living in Westlock.

On July 1, 1974, our dreams finally came true. We bought a (mobile) home and it was installed on a quarter of land we had purchased in 1965 in the Picardville area, where we still live today.

THE NEKOLAICHUK FAMILY

written by Kay Nekolaichuk

It was the spring of 1910, times in the Ukraine had become unbearable. Economic, political, and social reasons were forcing many Ukrainians to leave their homeland for other countries. Among these emigrating masses were two families, the Nekolaichuks and the Bachuls. Leaving their homeland of beloved Oresheny, Bukovina, Austria both families boarded a ship bound for the shores of Canada.

Metro Nekolaichuk, his wife Marisa, his daughter Raifta and son Stephen, disposed of all their property and ventured out thousands of miles across water to find a new home. Likewise did George Bachul. His wife Agrepina was long deceased so he travelled alone, with his two daughters, Raifta and Elena. Together they survived the long ocean voyage often overcome by illness, moments of grief and despair, onward bound, nevertheless, to a distant land unknown to them.

During the voyage both families spent much time talking about their new venture, consoling each others fears, and making plans for the future. One of these plans surrounded the prospect of marriage between their children, namely Stephan and Raifta who had shown a liking towards each other.

Shortly after the families finally arrived in Edmonton by rail, Stephan and Raifta were married.

The marriage took place at a church at Sunland Alberta, a short distance from the present day village of Willingdon.

The two Nekolaichuk families proceeded eastward, eager to settle in the Two Hills area in close proximity to where their friends the Hohols, have taken up settlement. George Bachul, on the other hand joined his eldest married daughter, Anna Kebich, in the Wahstav area, just south of Bellis.

Since no open homesteads were available around Two Hills, the Nekolaichuks turned to the Brosseau area. They soon found what appeared luscious undergrowth and a small lake teeming with fish. What more could they want and selling just for \$10.00. What a find, they thought. They each purchased a homestead here, later to be known as the Lafond area.

Young, strong and willing, though with few possessions, both families set to build their sod houses, brush their land of trees by hand, clear away the rocks and plant their first crops.

In the fall of that year, on October 6, 1911, Stephan and Raifta were blessed with their first arrival, a son whom they named Demetro, in honor of their father. How joyful they were.

As the years passed their family increased. Demetro gained four sisters, Anna, Mary, Pauline and Jean and two brothers, William and Sandy, the latter adopted after his own mother Marynovich's untimely passing.

As the years passed, hurdle after hurdle was met head on, together the crop failures, the Depression 1929-33, illness and even death. Stephan and Raifta survived the times when a dozen eggs sold for 5¢, when wheat sold for 35¢ a bushel, a 200 lb. hog went for \$2.50 and a cow sold for \$10.00.

Times were hard but these pioneers were harder. They survived the dawn to dusk back-breaking work, 6 days a week, to enjoy a "chram", an "obid", an occasional wedding. Stephan proved



Demetro Nekolaichuk family at son Terry's wedding October 1979.

quite popular on his accordion at many of these functions, an accomplishment soon to be followed by his son Demetro.

As each of their children reached school age they all attended Chesterville School, some two miles away, walking the distance most summer and winter. In the sixth grade, Father Dailey, discovered good potential in Demetro and tried to convince the family that he should be sent to the city for higher education. After much deliberation the family consented.



Tamara, granddaughter of Demetro and Kay Nekolaichuk.

Father Dailey, to whom Demetro felt highly obligated, arrived in his one horse-drawn buggy one morning and drove Demetro to Vegreville. From there he went on by train to Edmonton where he would enroll at the Ukrainian Catholic Institute.



Stephan and Raifta Nekolaichuk.

What a frightened country lad he was, in a pair of worn shoes, knicker pants and two dollars in his pocket.

Upon his arrival at the institute he was presented with an entrance exam. Much to the amazement of all he passed it successfully. He was now registered in grade IX. He spent three years at the Institute, working off most of his board and room. The remaining debt was disregarded because of his being an honor student. Quite an achievement!

Upon completing his grade XI he enrolled in the Edmonton Normal School receiving his teaching certificate in the spring of 1930. How proud his family was!

His teaching career took him through many years and many schools, his first being Beela in 1930, followed by Roberge, Brinsley, Moose and Mamaestie till June 1942.

Then 1942 was a turning point — a new milestone in his life. That spring he met and later married in August, a budding, young, school mam, Kay Shapka, of Wahstav, who was teaching then at Lac Bellevue School. Together they began their young married life and teaching careers at Bohdan School in Sept. 1942. On to Moose, King George, a delightful community, Derwent, Beauvallon and Myrnam — one of the best! (We've been here twenty some years.)

By the year 1969 through years of studying university correspondence courses, attending summer sessions fourteen summers at a stretch, Demetro had successfully completed his grade XII, received a B. Ed. degree in 1948, and a M. Ed. degree in 1969. However, due to failing health, after 37½ years of dedicated service in a profession he adored, Demetro was forced to retire most reluctantly, — critically ill.

Today Demetro and Kay are blessed with a family of five children

Ronald — married to Karen Myskiw
Leslie

Murray — married to Pat Oneschuk

Terry — married to Debbie Kuneff
and Cheryl,

three charming daughters-in-law and one darling grand-daughter, Tamara. At the time of this writing two new grandchildren are expected to arrive very shortly. How grateful we are to be so blessed.

As dedicated teachers we have attempted to share our knowledge, our experiences, and ourselves with dozens of our eager school students — the length and breadth of the County of Two Hills and beyond. We have fond memories of soft ball games, of Christmas concerts, festivals — of gifts of flowers and such you so willingly brought to our door. These memories we so cherish for you have been a part of our lives. The former students of Lac Bellevue School of '42 I recall with a particular warmth. You were my first students. Those war

songs you sang particularly well. Thank you all for the fond memories.

dedicated to my husband Demetro, our children and grandchildren

ROBERT NIEBERDING FAMILY

by Anna, Albert, Bob

Robert Nieberding Sr. was born on June 3, 1891 in Northern Germany into an opportunity of status, wealth and position. However, at the early age of 19 he cast this all to the wind and with white gloves, top hat and a suitcase full of fancy clothes set out to seek independence and adventure. Upon arriving in the United States he began travelling and sightseeing extensively in first class style. His fluency in English, French and German made it possible for him to move about with the insolvency of his financial situation. A number of harsh, stark, but basic lessons were about to be learned. One of his first jobs in America was as a mule skinner, literally. The hides were removed and the meat fed to foxes. Other jobs soon followed involving leveling land for irrigation using horses and mules, and building telegraph lines for Western Union. With the wages of his sweat, his style of travel



R. Nieberding Family, 1960. L-R: Anna, Florence (Robert Jr. wife), Robert Jr., Mr. R. Nieberding, Albert, Yvette (Albert's wife), Karl, (Albert and Yvette's son). Centre front: Mrs. R. Nieberding.

changed drastically. He used to mention and joke about riding the rods and sight seeing America from a side door Pullman (boxcar). A brief trip to Mexico occurred at the time of a revolution and the sight of bodies in the streets encouraged him to quickly return to the United States.

Various opportunities presented themselves during his travels. At one time he had a chance to obtain a 160 acre homestead in a proposed irrigation project in the Imperial Valley of California. The heat of the place discouraged him, though, as this was before air conditioning.

The spring of 1914 however found him in Edmonton where he took a job as instrument man on a survey party. They were assigned to survey along the Athabasca River as well as to determine the exact location of the townsites of Waterways and Fort McMurray. The party left Athabasca by scow and floated to their worksite down river. The party chief was H. Montambeault. With the completion of their objective and fall freezeup they all walked out to Plamondon where they learned that World War I had broken out. A decision was made to go with Montambeault to St. Paul to wait out the winter, and also the war, since he was, after all, a German. The far reaching effects of this decision could not possibly have been imagined at the time, since this was to be the end of his wandering and the beginning of the rest of his life as a farmer at St. Paul.

Apparently the fever of land ownership and settlement which had been sweeping the country at that time also affected him. So with \$10.00 of his summer earnings he took out a homestead on a somewhat isolated piece of land to wait out the war. The land was not particularly agricultural but it didn't really matter because it was only to be a temporary stay. In any case, while waiting, he dutifully made improvements and came to feel more at home, so that when the war finally ended he was content to stay on a while longer.

His early homestead years as a bachelor were terminated in July 1921 with the arrival of our



Mr. and Mrs. R. Nieberding with daughter Anna, 1922.



1914 — R. Nieberding 1st homestead log home.

mother Emma Koopmann. She was a Red Cross nurse before and during the war in Germany, and had lived through turbulent times. When her childhood sweetheart, after years of correspondence, finally asked her hand in marriage she was elated. Her arrival in St. Paul over the new rail line was without fanfare. A brief marriage ceremony and a shaky ride in a buggy over a mud trail to a leaky log shack to milk cows was her initiation to a way of life that was to envelop them both for the rest of their lives.

In the early twenties, Anna and then Albert were born, while Bob was born later just prior to the depression. The arrival of children was an extra burden of work. Diapers were made from flour sacks, washed in the slough, hung to dry on a line and then sometimes pulled down and eaten by the pigs. Wild game was abundant. Wild duck eggs and even wild duck that the cat caught were sometimes diverted to the table.

There was little money even for the basic necessities like flour, salt, sugar, but the barter system flourished. Income was derived from the sale of farm animals, trapping, cream cheques and harvesting. Dad would leave home for a month or so in fall with team, wagon and hayrack to work south of the North Saskatchewan River. Since there was no bridge or ferry the river was forded. This was usually not a problem because the wagon tied to the hayrack would float and the horses would swim and thereby pull the rig when the water became

too deep to touch bottom. This one fall however Dad had bought a bull with his harvest earnings and had the animal standing on the rack when he attempted to ford the river. The extra weight nearly caused a disaster.

Gradually relative prosperity allowed the purchase of more land in 1929 and the building of a new house and farmstead to be nearer the road allowance. This also involved the inevitable mortgage. That year also saw the purchase of the first radio in the district. Several first time listeners tried to fathom how small the people must be in order to all fit inside this relatively small box, and also how early they got up each morning.

This was also a time of immigration. Our home served as a sort of half way house for new immigrants as well as a place to gather and visit by neighbors. There were ball games in summer and hockey on the lake in winter. These games were not at all highly organized. To play hockey all that was required was a contribution to ice clearing and perhaps a pair of skates. A hockey stick was usually made from a crooked willow tree and hewn by axe to shape the blade. The hockey puck was more often than not frozen horse manure. Gatherings, usually Sunday afternoons, also sometimes became tobogganing parties where homemade sleighs were more prevalent than toboggans. These fun activities continued until the early 1940's when somehow people found better things to do. This was also the time of the barbed wire telephone.

The year 1929 saw the building of the Many Lakes School. It was conceived by J.K. Johnstone, Mr. Huntly, A. J. Talbourdet, M. Hopey and my dad. Anna and Albert were in the first class of students.

The 30's were relatively uneventful. Progress was slow due to the depression. The McCosham quarter (brother to the moving storage firm) was bought in 1935 for \$100.00. This was paid for with an advance on cream cheques, with butterfat paying 10¢ per pound and cord wood delivered to the creamery for \$2.00 a cord. Electricity was also installed in the form of a wind propeller mounted to a car generator which charged a 6 volt battery. This operated the radio and one electric light bulb, if used sparingly.

The 1940's brought opportunity and therefore rapid change everywhere. Purebred Holsteins, then milk quota, new buildings and mechanization, made possible the transformation of the homestead into an outstanding dairy farm. Dad became active in the Agricultural Society and continued this until the 1950's. Improved roads, rural electrification, and many other factors combined to make life easier and to help give one the illusion that you've got it made.

Gradually but inevitably the continuous drudgery of the dairy became apparent and finally in 1961



R. Nieberding Farmsite, 1960.

in failing health the farm was sold lock, stock and barrel. Mom and Dad retired to a comfortable home in Edmonton with the usually modern conveniences to be truly enjoyed for the first time. However, Dad passed away in July, 1963 without being able to appreciate retirement. Mom, on the other hand, enjoyed a long retirement with relatively good health until August, 1978.

They are now gone and therefore unable to tell their life story at a time when it matters. When they were alive and able to tell it then, of course, it wasn't important. We, their descendants, appreciate the opportunity to tell what is left of the story.

MR. AND MRS. DONAT NOEL

by Oliver Noel

Having moved to the west with their parents while in their teens, it was not long before a friendship and then a romance started, ending in a marriage in 1916 for Donat Noel and Eugenie Laflamme.

Having already filed on their homestead they built a small log shack and started to develop a farm out of a raw and very rocky quarter section of land.

The war of 1914 had accelerated and in 1917, many young farmers had to go into training and overseas to fight the enemies, the draft having been enforced.

A sizeable number of Lafond and Lac Bellevue residents wanted no part of a war about which they knew nothing.

It was decided that to go into hiding was the only solution and some did. Others, like Donat, decided to go back to Quebec thinking that there



Donat Noel and Eugenie "Laflamme" married May 22, 1916, at Lafond.

was less chance of being drafted if employed in the lumber industry, as that was considered a vital war time product for the construction of army facilities and ships.

After the war ended in 1918, Donat and his wife returned to Lac Bellevue. This time with a son Camile, the eldest of a family that ended numbering fourteen children. Of these eleven survived.

There were seven boys: Camile, Ovide; Roger, Henry, Roland, Oliver and Jean Paul; as well as four girls: Cecile (Mrs. G. Delasalle), Leontine (Mrs. P. Pinettes), Georgette (Mrs. A. Kruk), and the baby, Bertha (Mrs. Oscar Paul). Quite a large family to keep fed and clothed during the long hard thirties.

While retaining the farms at Lac Bellevue, Donat purchased the Grouin farm in 1927, presently the Art Poirier farm. This land had originally been taken by James Brady in 1909.

The family grew and most of the boys went their own way. In 1950, the farm was sold to Frank Lambert, a local I.H.C. dealer. The family moved into the Johnny Brunelle house on an acreage, to the south of the Saucer Pad.

Donat and his son, Oliver kept on farming other land that had not been sold, namely the Moloin quarter and the Larry Beauregard farm, north of the Blue Quills School. This was done until 1955 when they were sold for \$5,000.00 and \$6,000.00 respectively.

In 1961, the Medore Brunelle house was purchased and a move again was made. This was to be the last.

Mrs. Noel, my mother, died on July 28, 1972 after a very lengthy illness of which she was confined to hospitals for long periods of time

Donat sold the house and attempted residence in our local senior citizen lodge but the confinement was more than he would accept. He has been living with his children, taking a change once in a while.

For the past year, Donat has been confined to the Ste. Theresa Hospital after a stroke that left him speechless and immobile. He was 85 on August 23rd, 1980.

MR. AND MRS. LOUIS AND CLEMENTINE (NEE DESAULNIER) NOEL

by Oliver Noel

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Noel came to Beauvallon in 1907 from St. Etienne des Gres P. Q. with their family to take a homestead.

Louis came first, as part of a group guided by Father Ouellette, who was organizing settlements of Quebec people in Alberta.

Clementine and the children followed by railroad later in the summer, to arrive in Vegreville six days late due to a misunderstanding of the conductor.



Hector, Aime, Adelard and Donat Noel.

Upon reboarding at Winnipeg, she was directed with the children to board a train that was to travel the southern run. The unfortunate mistake was only discovered in Regina.

Not speaking any English, she had quite a time explaining her destination and also the fact that she was out of food and money. The railroad people felt certain obligations, as they willingly filled the food baskets to last the balance of the trip.

The homestead that Louis had picked out was about six miles north of the present day Beauvallon, but only two miles east of the old Beauvallon School.

He had built a log house and cleared a few acres by the time the family arrived, and in partnership with another settler had a team of oxen and a wagon.

After struggling for four years on this homestead, it was thought that the land at Lac Bellevue would be of a better quality so they moved to a homestead on the east shore of Lac Bellevue Lake.

At this time Donat and Adelard were old enough to file on their own homestead and each filed and took a quarter of land next to their father, Louis.



The above on a Sunday afternoon in 1912 or 1913 are L-R: Adelard Noel, Claudia Laflamme, Zelia Laflamme, Yvonne Laflamme, Aduard Laflamme, Antoinette Laflamme, Hector Noel.



Mr. and Mrs. Louis Noel.

The daughter Bertha married Mr. Odilon Gagne and settled at Lafond and later Alexandrine married Hector Dupuis and they also farmed east of Lafond.

In 1916, Donat married Eugenie Laflamme, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Laflamme, who had migrated from the Gaspé area of Quebec to Lac Bellevue in 1912.

Shortly after the war, Louis applied for the contract to operate the mail haul and Post Office at Lac Bellevue and was successful in obtaining this service for his neighbors. The mail was picked up at Lafond once a week. This service was continued by son Aime "Sam" till the middle forties when fire destroyed his home and Post Office. The government would not seek another postmaster and mail service to Lac Bellevue was discontinued.

During the twenties Clementine became sick and finally became an invalid requiring constant care. She died at home in 1933 and was buried at the Lafond RC cemetery.

Louis remained farming with his sons Adelard and Sam, progressing to the point of having one of the best horse herds in the district, providing newcomers with draft animals and stud services for many years.

Many stories were told of Louis' involvement in local politics as well as getting quite an interest in Provincial and Federal elections; not wanting to see his choice of candidate defeated at all costs. Elections were a very serious issue during this period.

One story which was told about a particular election was that the voting pole was at the Drolets for this election, and Louis was to go vote alone as his wife was sick. Someone suggested the loss of

one vote could not be tolerated, and that he should borrow a wife for this trip.

So Louis detoured to Joe Laflamme's and explained his predicament. As Mrs. Laflamme had voted at the Henley pole, she agreed to go and vote as Mrs. Noel. The scrutineer being a stranger, never knew the difference and all was accomplished with success.

During the thirties, the rewards of farming were not too plentiful and Adelard decided to sell the horses, machinery and farm and relocate in St. Paul after purchasing a livery stable. Louis came to live in town with his son.

Louis kept to his circle of local oldtimers, referred to by many as senators, as they had several meeting places where the discussion and arguments of politics was thrashed out much quicker than Ottawa could dream of doing.

While attending a St. Jean Baptist celebration in St. Paul in the early forties, tragedy struck poor Louis. While attempting to cross the race track during a race, he was struck by one of the horses. His injuries were such that he died a few days after the accident and was also buried at Lafond.

THE O'CONNOR FAMILY

by James O'Connor

William O'Connor emigrated to Canada and settled in St. Brides district in 1927.

He was born in Dunbrock County Derry Northern Ireland. Mary McFarlane was born in Limavady County Derry, Northern Ireland. They were married in Cambusland in 1911.



William O'Connor Family.
L-R: Thomas, John, James,
Patrick, Eileen. seated: Mary
and William.

Later they moved to Glasgow, Scotland, where most of their family were born. They had five sons and two daughters. Patrick 1912, Beatrice (deceased) born 1914, James 1916, Eileen 1920, John 1924, William (deceased). Thomas the only one born in Canada, was born in St. Brides in 1930.

The family emigrated to Canada in 1927, sailing from Glasgow on June 1st aboard the S. S. Meta Gama, arriving in Quebec on the ninth day of June 1927. After a nine day voyage, we then travelled by train across Canada to our destination at St. Paul, Alberta. After a few days stay, we then went to the district of St. Brides.

St. Brides did not get its name, until the settlers were settled, at which time it was named St. Bridget, later changed to the shorter St. Brides.

We lived in tents for a week on the quarter section, owned by Patrick McGonigal Jr. waiting for the contractors to finish the hurriedly built houses (uninsulated).

We were then sent to our farm, altogether there were 52 original settlers of Irish, Scottish, and English descent. Mostly they were Irish.

We were settled on a quarter section S.W. of 5-58-11-4, our farm bordered the Saddle Lake Reserve to the west. At first we were scared of Indians, but over the years we had many good friends.

My parents William and Mary spent all their life in the settlement. They were laid to rest side by side in 1956.

The rest of the family is scattered over western and northern Canada.

Patrick married Evelyn O'Neill, now living in Whitehorse, Yukon. They have 6 children.

James married Florence Lavoie, now living in Burnaby, B.C. They have 3 children.

Eileen married Joseph Logue now living in Edmonton, Alberta. They have 4 children.

John married Minnie Gottenbos, now living in Whitehorse, Yukon. They have 8 children.

Thomas married Frances Wengzynowski, now living in Vancouver, B.C. They have 7 children.

STEFFIN OIA

submitted by Orville Swedgen and Leo Desjarlais

Steffin Oia was born in Svene, Norway, March 26, 1906.



1952, Steffin Oia with his hogs.

After his school years in Norway, Steffin had a chicken ranch and then worked for the railroad.

In the spring of 1927, leaving his Mother and Father and one brother, he emigrated to Canada, via the Atlantic to Montreal, Quebec. From Montreal he took the train to Edmonton, Alberta.

From Edmonton he took a job brushing in Clyde, Alberta. During this employment he met John Hostveld, and they became friends and partners. From their earnings from brushing, they saved enough money to buy a Model T and ventured out to arrive in Landonville, Alberta.

Steffin met Oli Howe and they took any kind of jobs available to them in the areas.

Steffin then returned to Landonville and worked for farmers, picking rocks, roots and also worked with horses.

Leaving Landonville, Steffin walked to Owlseye, Alberta and tried to get a job with the railroad, to no avail, but did find work as a farm labourer for a Mr. McDonald.

On November 16 of 1928, Steffin Oia filed for a homestead, N.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ 6-57-9-4, in St. Paul de Metis, and moved there. He moved into an old log shack that was already there and lived in it till Henry Scheper built him a new log house and barn.

Steffin then acquired a team of horses, some pigs, chickens and cattle, the beginning of his black herd.

When Steffin Oia started with his chickens, he had no rooster, but had his black cattle, so one day he came to Mrs. Gerhard Hovelkamp and traded a black calf for a rooster. He then continued with the chickens and sold eggs for an income, and he sold cream as well.

In winter months he cut, sawed and hauled wood to St. Paul to the Flour Mill at \$2.00 a load.

Steffin Oia was a bachelor but did attend the socials, picnics and dances in the Many Lakes area.

In 1945, Steffin sold his homestead to Pat Cunningham, for a sum of \$500.00 and bought land in the St. Edouard, Alberta area, S.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ 23-58-8-4 and

N.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ 23-58-8-4 and stayed on this farm for 4 or 5 years.

The first year Steffin lived on his new location the winter was so cold, he froze his toes while sleeping in his bed, so he moved in with a neighbor for the winter.

Steffin was very unfortunate with water wells on the places he lived; he had to herd his cattle to the lake or spring to water them. He had only enough water supply in his well for the hogs he was raising.

Steffin then sold the above mentioned land and bought 3 quarters, N.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ 26-58-8-4, S.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ 26-58-8-4 and N.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ 23-58-8-4. Again he was unfortunate with the water supply and that winter again was very cold, so he had to call on his neighbor Mike Turzanski, for help with watering the livestock, and also lived with him.

In 1953, Steffin bought George Michalow's farm, S.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ 26-58-8-4. With this farm site he was very fortunate, as he had a very good well. By this time his cattle herd had increased to 82 head, and he drew the water from the well by rope and pail. It was such a hard job pulling pail after pail of water for the cattle that one time his right arm gave in, so he managed to finish watering the cattle by pulling up the pail with his left arm and holding the rope with his foot.

In 1968, he bought the Carmen Olson land N.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ 26-58-8-4. By this time he had accumulated 5 quarters of land, and also increased his herd of black cattle, which were his pride, to a herd of 160 head. With so much work involving the cattle he stopped raising pigs.

In 1970, Steffin Oia went back to the "Old Country" — Norway — to visit his brother and family. His parents had died, as over 40 years had gone by before he went "Home" again.

In 1971, Steffin's nephew Svene came to Canada with a friend to visit Uncle Steffin. The nephew and friend helped to dig a basement and pour cement for a foundation for a house that he bought from Bjorne (Barney) Jory and moved it onto the foundation.

1976 was a very memorable year for Steffin Oia, as his brother Anton, with his wife and son, came to Canada for their first Canadian visit.

In 1978, Steffin again went to visit his family and relations in Norway; as it happened it was his last visit "Home" to the Old Country.

In 1979, his brother Anton and wife again came to Canada, and with Steffin they went on a holiday to Montana and Minnesota, USA, to look up and visit with relations that they had not seen for many years.

Steffin Oia was a very busy man but never refused to help any of his neighbors in the area, or if Mrs. Millie Lacombe would phone, he would take the time to drive her to a "Bingo" game.



1968, Steffin Oia with some of his herd of black cattle.

Despite his age Steffin continued to farm until he took suddenly very ill and died January 21, 1981, at the age of 74 years.

Steffin's wish was that his remains go back "Home" to Norway to be laid to rest with his family members.

Steffin Oia will long be remembered by his friends and neighbors.

ALLEN OLSEN FAMILY

by the family

In the spring of 1976 Allen and Eleanor Olsen bought the Duffy Farm and built their new home on it.

After retiring from the R.C.A.F. Allen joined the R.C.M.P. as a Civilian Member. Allen was transferred from Edmonton to the St. Paul Detachment, as Supervisor of Communication in 1977. Allen was joined by his wife, Eleanor, and three daughters Brenda, Diana and Janice in 1978.

Eleanor Olsen is a kindergarten teacher in St. Paul.

Two daughters have married since moving to St. Brides.

Brenda took Combined Lab. and X-Ray Technician training at NAIT and then worked at St. Theresa Hospital, St. Paul. She married Mr. Dale Dairon on August 18, 1979. They now reside in Morinville.

Diana attended NAIT for Biological Sciences and is now working toward Geological Technician with the Canadian Hunter Company. She married Cameron Bogle on May 10, 1980. They now reside in Calgary, Alberta.

Janice Olsen completed her Grade 12 in St. Paul Regional High School, and works in St. Paul. She lives with her parents in St. Brides.

THE ARTHUR O'NEILL FAMILY

by Elizabeth McGonigal

My father, Arthur O'Neill, was born in Corrigan Country, Antrim, Ireland, in 1880. He married Elizabeth McCormick, in 1899. They had 7 children of which 5 emigrated to Canada with them, in June of 1927. They sailed on the ship Montclair, arriving in Montreal. They then travelled by train to Edmonton and by truck to St. Brides. Arriving in St. Brides, we were told which land was ours and lived in a tent until the house was built.

Agnes, the oldest married William O'Donnell and moved to England where they raised a family of 2 boys, Patrick and Bill and 1 girl, Maureen. All are still living in England.

Arthur, the second oldest, emigrated to Canada 2 years before our parents and lived in Toronto. Later he joined the family in St. Brides. He married

Kathleen O'Hara and they had 6 children, Shaun living in Edmonton, Kevin living in Edmonton, Arthur was killed in a pipeline accident in 1956. Bernard is living in Calahoo, Hugh in Edmonton and one daughter Mary living in Calgary. Both parents Arthur and Kathleen are now deceased.

Patrick, the third oldest, married Lena Chornohus and they have 5 children. Patrick Jr. and Bernard both living in St. Paul and farming in the St. Brides area. Tom is living in Amirillo, Texas, and the 2 girls: Marg is living in Calgary and Elizabeth is living in Vancouver.

Pat and Lena farmed for a few years, then built the store in St. Brides that is still on the present site and it also had the post office in it. They then sold the store to Wm. Looy and purchased a hotel in Ashmont. After operating the hotel for a few years, they sold it and went back farming. Patrick is now deceased and Lena is busy working with the boys on the farming operation.

Bernard, the fourth oldest, passed away at the age of 19, in 1936. The year before, in 1935, he had won the wheat championship cup and a trip to Olds, Alberta.

Felix, the youngest son, married Rose Markouski and they have 3 children — Maureen,



Arthur, Elizabeth O'Neill.

Cathy and Charlie, all living in Edmonton. Felix and Rose owned the Golden Loaf Bakery in St. Paul where they both did the baking. After they sold the bakery, they moved to Edmonton where Felix is still working as a salesman and Rose is working at home, decorating cakes.

Mary Ellen, the youngest of the family, married Bernard McConigal and they had 4 children. Bernard, the only son, was killed in a car accident in 1970. May, the oldest girl, is living in Leduc, Kathleen is living in Hay Lakes and Rose is working with A.G.T. in Edmonton. Mary Ellen and Bernard are living in St. Brides. They previously operated the post office that they took over from Pat O'Neill and operated until a couple of years ago. They are still farming and Bernard operates the school bus.

Myself, Elizabeth worked in the St. Theresa Hospital after coming over from Ireland and then for the Ernest Belzil family. I worked for a year for the Belzil family and then went back to the farm, until my marriage to Patrick F. McGonigal on Nov. 25, 1937. We lived with my parents until we purchased our present homestead in 1939. We worked together clearing the land and farming. Pat started working on construction, then on road work, and kept farming also. We have 5 children — Mary Rose married Ed Pchelnyk and live in St. Paul. They have 4 daughters.

Agnes married Andre Lalonde and they live in Toronto. They have 1 son.

Patricia married Morris Dacyk and they live in Cold Lake. They have 3 daughters.

Bernadette married Steve Vlodarchyk and they live in Fort Saskatchewan. They have 2 sons.

Grace married Eric Mickailyk and they live in Fort Saskatchewan. They have 1 son.

We also raised two foster children, from the age of 3 years until John, passed away at the age of 19 and Lucille left to be on her own at the age of 18. We are pensioners now and still living on the same homestead in St. Brides.

BERNARD AND MATILDA O'NEILL

by Gus O'Neill

Barney and Matilda O'Neill and their seven children, three daughters Kathleen, Evelyn and Tillie and four sons, Gus, Bernard, Frank and Greg left Ireland on the 21st of June 1927, to better the life of the family. The children were aged 3 - 16. It took Pop's life savings to pay for the family's passage to New Brunswick, where he hoped to get a job as fisherman. Fishing was something he knew how to do, as generations before him were also fishermen.

Somewhere aboard ship, between Belfast and Quebec, he lost their Landing Papers. Possibly they were stolen. When they arrived in Quebec the family was placed under security for seven days, while

they investigated the loss. No trace of the papers could be found. They were placed on the deportation list to be deported back to Ireland. When out of the blue came a priest, Father McDonnell who would act as peacemaker between the Immigration and Pop O'Neill. He persuaded Pop to come out to Alberta where he could place the family on a farm at St. Brides. Pop explained that he never farmed and really knew very little about it. But it was either come out west or be deported.

So they arrived in St. Brides on the 15 of July 1927. They lived in tents till their house was ready for them to move in to. It was a 20 by 20, 4 room frame house with no insulation and was to be the home for nine people. Then we had to learn the ways of our new country. Our closest store was St. Paul, 10½ miles away. We had to walk when we needed supplies. The mosquitoes were ravenous. We carried a branch broken off a willow tree to scare them off as we walked down the road that was but a trail.

The older children had to go to work to help out. Kathleen, then 16, worked at the St. Theresa Hospital in St. Paul and worked there for five years. I, Gus then 15, and the oldest of the boys, went to work for Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Belzil. They were the nicest people I ever had the pleasure of knowing, as they treated me as one of their own. I stayed with them the balance of the summer, then through the fall and winter. Mr. Belzil taught me everything I needed to know about caring for and harnessing horses. He sat for hours explaining the ways of farming in this area. I am very grateful for the time he took with me. In the fall, we got our first cow. My Mother, being the only one to have experience with milking cows, taught us how. There were 40 acres of ploughed land ready. During the winter we acquired 4 horses, a single disc, four sections of harrows and a share in a community seed drill. As new farmers, we went on from there, hard times and all.

Kathleen the eldest daughter married Peter Quinn from St. Brides. They have 2 children and still live in Edmonton. I, Gus, married Florence Kossowan, second eldest daughter of John and Tackla Kossowan, farmers in the Cork area. We also live in Edmonton and have 6 children. My sister Evelyn married Pat O'Connor from St. Brides, they have 6 children and lived in Whitehorse. Evelyn passed away in 1978. Bernard who married Julia Skulski now lives in British Columbia. He is the father of 5 children. Frank was unwell and passed away in 1960. Greg took Cecile Tremblay for his bride and they raised a family of 3. Greg passed away in 1981. Cecile still resides in Edmonton where they had lived for a number of years. Tillie the youngest O'Neill child married Maurice Mailloux from St. Paul and they had a family of 8. They still reside in St. Paul.

Mom O'Neill died in 1959 and Pop O'Neill passed away in 1968 at the age of 86.

GUS AND FLORENCE O'NEILL

by Florence Labant

My mother and father Gus and Florence O'Neill were married in the St. Brides Church on November 5, 1933. They lived in St. Paul until 1940 when they moved to Edmonton where Dad drove Taxi for several years. In 1947 we moved back to St. Brides to be farmers with Grandpop O'Neill.

We girls went to school in St. Brides. When we, Edna, Gussy and I, started school in St. Brides we had to walk over 4 miles. Dad purchased a horse Queenie, and democrat for us. Having grown up in the city, we had lots to learn about horses, harness and democrats. Many a minor mishap was thought by us to be major as we learned what it took to bring us safely to and from school. When the "haims" strap on the harness broke we thought we could go no farther unless it was fixed, so we used the elastic that held up our stockings to manufacture a makeshift strap. When we happened to be a few minutes late for school, Sister St. Joseph would stand at the window and wait till she could see us coming. Once the O'Neill girls were in sight, they could start classes.

One winter day Edna, who was the driver of our horse Queenie and the cutter, was sick, at home, Gussy and I decided to try to go by ourselves. The roads were very icy and slick. When we got to St. Brides Store, we met a neighbour boy, Bernard O'Neill, who was walking to school. He had attached himself to the cutter by riding on the runners, Theresa McCool was riding her big white work horse to school and she never used a bridle just a halter. Mr. Chomyc met us with his car. Queenie shied and took off. Bernard tried to help

me hold the horse but in the process he lost his footings and fell off. He was almost run over by the old horse Theresa was riding. Queenie was frightened by the sound of the big horse's hooves on the road and went all the faster. As there is only 1/2 mile between the store and the school, there was little time to think. The gate was coming closer. I tried to hold the horse so she would go straight down the road, but she was used to turning in and she did. There was a big gate post in the gateway and we hit it. Sister St. Joseph and the class were standing watching us coming. They all ran outside as we hit the post. Sister ran up as I was picking myself out of the snow. Tears were running down my face. Are you hurt! asked Sister. No, I'm just mad, I said. The boys caught the horse as she made her way around the school for the second time with nothing behind her but the shafts. The children helped us pick up the pieces, lunch and books before we all went in to school to begin our day's work. It was hard to go back home that night with an explanation instead of a cutter.

The year Marjorie started school, we didn't have a horse as she got away from us and strangled herself in a tree on the reserve. By the time Marleen the youngest girl was ready to go to school there was a school bus. Lonnie, the only boy, was born in St. Paul but Mom and Dad moved back to Edmonton shortly after.

Edna married Nick Bohachyk and they live in Redwater. They have a family of 5.

I, Floreen (Florence) married Joseph Labant and we live in the Cork area. We have 5 living children.

Gustine (Gussy) married George Megas and they have a family of 6. George passed away in 1970. She later married Maurice Riopel. They live in Redwater.

Marjorie married Laurie Gordon and they have 2 daughters. They have just moved to Fort St. John, B.C.

Marleen, the youngest of the girls, married Ken Weaver. They live in Calgary and they have 2 girls.

Lonnie, the only boy, married Marian Kerr and they have 1 daughter. They live in Fort Saskatchewan.

Mom and Dad are now retired and are enjoying their life travelling, camping and fishing.

O'NEILL FAMILY

by Lena O'Neill

Patrick O'Neill was the second oldest son of Arthur and Elizabeth O'Neill. They emigrated from Northern Ireland to St. Brides, Alberta in 1927.

Patrick lived with the family on the farm by Saddle Lake reserve. They farmed, milked cows and raised hogs. Living was done on a quarter of land in those days. They had the first rubber tire tractor in the settlement and a threshing machine.



Gus O'Neil's Family Picture: Marleen, Marjorie, Gustene, Floreen, Edna, Florence, Gus, and Lonnie.

Patrick fed hogs and was able to buy a farm of his own. In 1939 he married Lena Chornohus and raised a family of five children.

We sold the farm in St. Brides and moved to farm at Foisy, Alta. We sold the farm there, after two years, and moved to St. Paul, Alta. We purchased a share in the St. Paul Flour Mill, which we kept for two years.

We purchased the Joseph Bell farm at St. Brides in 1945, with the post office located at the northeast corner of the farm. We will never forget that post office. We had to write out the money orders with pen and ink. The ink froze on the paper and had to be dried over the heater.

In 1946 we built a store which still stands there. We moved the post office into our warm store. Two years later, we added a truck hauling business. We also bought dressed poultry for Canada Packers, Edmonton. Patrick still was a cattle dealer, and bought and sold cattle.

We just had too much work to do, so we gave up the post office to Mr. Bernard McGonigal, who had just returned from the army.

Later on we sold the store to Mr. and Mrs. Bill Looy and moved back to St. Paul to live.

In 1956 we managed the Ashmont Hotel in Ashmont, Alberta for one year. Then we purchased a farm on the outskirts of St. Paul, raised grain, cattle and hogs. We also got into the John Deere dealership with partner Louis Letourneau.

As his wife, I shared in all the business and did the book work, also started my parts career. I sold machinery and automotive parts for 25 years.

The years take their toll and we get older, Patrick passed away in 1972. He lived around the area for over 50 years.



Some of the pioneers of St. Brides: Ellen Quinn, Sarah Devine, Martha Doherty, Arthur O'Neill (Pat's Father) and Ellen Dolan.

His oldest sons Patrick and Bernard still carry on with grain farming in St. Brides, Alberta.

Patrick married Sheila Corfield, and they have 3 children. Bernard married Linda Noek, and they have 3 children. Margaret graduated as a registered nurse, married Stan Owerko, lives in Calgary. They have 3 children. Elizabeth became a stenographer, married Don Sawchuk. They live in Vancouver and have 3 children. Thomas was a hockey player with the Amarilla Wranglers, married Ginger Currie and remains in Texas.

BILL ONYSCHUK

by Bill Onyschuk

I, Bill Onyschuk, son of Mr. and Mrs. Mike Onyschuk of Lac Bellevue, was born December 18, 1931. I attended Henley school, helped my parents



Patrick O'Neill.



Darlene, Bill, Mary, David (Onyschuk).

on the farm, then later bought my own land, next to my dad's farm. In 1951, I came to St. Paul looking for work and got a job as an electrician till 1958. In 1959 I opened an electric motor rewinding shop, appliance repair, power tools which I operated till September, 1979.

In 1959, I met Mary Serniak of Glendon, and we were married on November 5, 1960. She worked as a clerk and cashier for 2 years. We have raised two children: David was born February 19, 1963. He is 17 years old, and attends the Regional High School. He is finishing grade 12, and plans to become a petroleum engineer. Darlene was born on July 7, 1967. She is 13 years old and is in grade 8. She enjoys sewing. I am now employed by St. Paul Beverages as service man for Coca Cola machines and still do my farming at Lac Bellevue.

MIKE ONYSCHUK

by Rose Prysunka (Onyschuk)

Mike Onyschuk was born in Wolczkowce Galicia, Poland on September 18, 1894. He came to Canada with his brother Andrew seeking a better life. They worked on the railroad to earn enough money to buy a homestead for \$10.00. That was a lot of money in those days. After he bought a homestead in 1915 he built a one room house. The roof was made of sod and the walls had mud plaster in the cracks of the logs, but they were warm houses.

He married Mary Yakimowich in January, 1918. Mary was born on November 5, 1900 in Austria. She came to Canada with her parents at the age of nine years. The first years were very hard as there wasn't much money so they just got what was really necessary, clothing and food like coffee, tea, sugar, and also tobacco. They had a cow, so they had milk in the summer. The first year, they cleared a few acres of land plowed with a walking plow, which was pulled by a horse and seeded by hand. As they cleared the land, they used the trees for firewood, and used a coal oil lamp for light. Mary



Mike, Mary Onyschuk on their 50th Wedding Anniversary with all the children: Mabel, Olga, Rose, Danny, Nick, Bill, Julia, Anast, Elizabeth Ann, Jean.

washed clothes by hand on a wooden wash board, which was made by hand.

As the children came along, the house got too small so in the twenties, Mike built a 2-room house; a barn and a chicken coop. The children all grew up in that house. They lost 3 children but raised a family of 10 children, seven girls: Anast Wirsta, Elizabeth Strong, Jean Knor, Julia Langdone, Rose Prysunka, Olga Coleman, Mabel Russell, 3 boys: Bill, Nick, and Danny.

The neighbors got together and helped each other as there was no money to pay wages. Mike worked by helping to build roads with horses and pull type machinery and cut bush on road allowances to help pay for taxes. He also worked in bush camps.

Mike and his wife lived on the farm till they got too old, then Nick took over the farm. Mike died at the age of 81 on November 7, 1975. Mary died on May 3, 1974. They are buried in the Union Cemetery in St. Paul, Alberta.



Taken in 1937: Julia, Bill, Mary Onyschuk holding Nick, Rose, and Jean.



Mike and Mary Onyschuk lived and raised all their children in this house built in the twenties, amongst them Nick.

I went to Henley School up to grade 8, then for grades 9 and 10 I went to Myrnam School. When I was 18, I started to work for T.C. Ashworth, doing farm work, then in 1956, I started going to work in the bush camp with Dad. I worked the bush camps in winter and farmed in the summer until 1971. Then I started doing carpenter work. I worked for Fraser Construction and then for Ouellette Construction.

On November 9th, 1963, I married Sonia Bjorneskaret from Stony Lake. We raised two children. Vivian was born June 7th, 1965 and Dwayne on April 20th, 1967. They go to school in St. Paul. Vivian is taking grade 10, her first year at the Regional School and Dwayne is in grade 8 and he goes to Glen Avon School.

ORTMAN FAMILY

by Mrs. Hildagard Olynuk (Nee Ortman)

Theodore Ortman arrived in Halifax, Canada in 1928 from Cloppenburg, Germany, by train to St. Gregor, Saskatchewan, where he worked till March 1929. He then came to St. Paul Des Metis when he met Elizabeth Sperveslage who had also arrived from Uploh, Germany in 1928. They were married in St. Paul des Metis November 18, 1930. Their wedding day was a memorable one as there was no snow, and the wedding party needed no winter clothing.

They rented the Dr. Gagnon farm along 3 mile Lake for 8 years. In this time 4 children had been born to them, Hildagard, Rita, Theodore Jr., and Joseph.

They bought a farm 3 miles west and 3 miles north of St. Paul in 1938. Three more daughters were born Mary, Elizabeth and Frieda.

In 1945 they sold the farm and moved to Humboldt, Saskatchewan. Later, Margaret, their last child was born, the same year their first grandchild was born, making 1951 a great year to remember.

1970, their 1st Great-Grandchild was born.

1973 Mrs. Elizabeth Ortman died.

This pioneer family was blessed with 8 children, 37 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren, including 1 set of twins. Hildagard Olynuk, now residing in St. Paul, Rita Campbell, now residing in Kelowna, B.C., Theodore Jr. resides in Humbolt, Saskatchewan, Joseph, resides in Vancouver, B.C., Mary Sonntag now resides in Brandon, Manitoba, Elizabeth Grosnick resides in Toronto, Ontario, Frieda Baur, resides in Humbolt, Saskatchewan and Margaret Zhiers resides in Strathmore, Alberta. Mr. Theodore Ortman sold his farms and now resides in Humbolt, Saskatchewan.

ANTHONY AND MARIA OSTROPOLSKI

by Emelia Yaremko

Mr. Tony (Anthony) Ostropolski was born in June, 1896 in Kluste (Klooste), Poland. His wife Maria (nee Dolinski) was born May, 1895.

Anthony and Maria were joined in matrimony in 1920. In the years to follow they had three sons; Casy (1921), Eddie (1923), and Frank (1941).



Eddie Ostropolski, son of Anthony and Maria, on the right, with his comrade. Eddie served in the armed forces, overseas during the World War II. 1939-45.

After hearing of Canada and its promise of opportunity and equality Anthony decided to emigrate.

He arrived in April of 1927 to join his three cousins who had settled previously in the Lac Bellevue area.

Tony, as he was more commonly called, arrived by train to St. Paul. It was late in the evening and not knowing anyone, he spent the night, sleeping on a bench, at the train station. After a rather uncomfortable night sleeping on a bench, he began to inquire the whereabouts of his cousins, Frank Tony and Nick Linkiewich. The local shoemaker informed him that they lived quite a distance from St. Paul. He advised Tony to wait for a farmer from the Lac Bellevue area who would give him a ride to the Linkiewich farms.



Tony and Maria Ostropolski with youngest son, Frank, pose in front of their Lac Bellevue home — now the home of Lloyd and Emelia Yaremko (Tony's grand-neice). The apple trees are the only landmarks left. Taken in app. 1945.

Since it was spring the roads were large stretches of muddy paths. Travelling was very difficult. Tony was able to get a ride two miles out of town and the wagon became hopelessly stuck. Tony thanked the farmer and continued his way on foot for the next 8 miles. Even though he was a strong, young man, it was quite a task to walk 8 miles on an empty stomach. Tony finally arrived at Frank Linkiewich's.

He remained at Frank's for two weeks, helping him build a new barn.

Then, Tony moved to Nick Linkiewich's and worked for him. He worked at both jobs for room and board.

Later on local farmers heard about the hard-working new-comer and they came to hire Tony. Among them were Mr. Andrew Gadowski, a farmer and Mr. George Fakas, a blacksmith. He worked at the difficult task of clearing land at two dollars a day.

During the times between planting and harvesting Tony journeyed to the city to search for work. He worked for the City of Edmonton digging trenches for sewer lines. An interesting fact is that Tony helped dig trenches for sewer lines to the MacDonald Hotel that still stands today.

While working out on the farms, Tony was approached by George Fakas to rent his land. Tony was reluctant to accept because he had no family to help him out. Besides he had no horses or machinery. However, George Fakas felt that Tony could manage with the help of relatives. Tony asked the advice of his cousin, Nick and his son Emil Linkiewich who promised to help out. Nick provided Tony with the seed grain and the use of machinery. Tony had money with which he made a deposit of \$50.00 for his own team of horses. Emil showed his Uncle Tony how to operate the machinery and Tony was on his way.

Tony continued renting Fakas' land and also purchased homestead N.E. 22-56-9-4 from Mr. Sharon in 1931. The homestead had no cultivated land and no buildings.

Given a cow, by Frank Linkiewich for his previous help, Tony felt he was in good standing and ready to bring his wife Maria to Canada.

In Poland, Maria sold the 1 morg of land and the cow. She arrived in Alberta with her sons Casey and Eddie in 1933.

Tony and Maria lived for a year in the house where they were renting the land. At the end of the year, Mrs. Fakas arrived and Tony's family were forced to move.

He immediately bought a granary, moved it on his own homestead and used it for a temporary residence. All that while, he was cutting the logs for the new house.

When enough logs were cut he started building a new home. Tony dug a cellar by hand, hauled rocks for the footing, and built the house.

He built other buildings, dug wells and increased his herd of domestic animals.

His family helped Tony clear most of the homestead. Tony recalls vividly the first year when they cleared 12 acres. The crop was planted and grew beautifully but there was nothing to harvest. A hail storm wiped it out completely.

As time progressed, the boys grew up and helped on the farm.



Eddie, son of Tony and Maria Ostropolski, takes a moment away from his work to have his picture taken (taken prior to 1939).

Later on, Casey the eldest son went out working and Eddie joined the army.

When Casey married, 1946, Tony and Maria bought him a half section of land in Daysland.

After the war, Eddie returned home from duties overseas and wanted to farm. A half section of land was bought in Clandonald and Eddie started farming.

With the two older boys far from home and only the youngest Frank, at home, Tony and Maria decided to move where they could be closer to their sons. In 1953, they purchased some land near their son Eddie and moved in 1954 to live with him.

While living in Clandonald, Eddie took a vacation, in Poland in 1959, met Eugenia and they got married. He returned to Alberta with his bride and continued to farm.

As the years advanced, many changes took place in the Ostropolski family. Frank grew up and joined the Army. Frank met Maureen and married in 1964, while stationed in Germany.

At home, Maria fell sick and required an operation. Tony decided it was best to move to Edmonton where Maria could be near her doctors.

In 1964 Maria passed away. Tony was left alone but he busied himself by spending the busy seasons on the farm helping his sons. Because Tony was away from home for long periods at a time, his house fell to vandalism. He sold his home and moved to an apartment where he still resides (Edmonton, 1980).

The Ostropolski family consist of: Casey and wife Betty of Daysland and their 3 boys — Leo, Brian and Eugene; Eddie and wife Eugenia of Clandonald and their children Felix and Maureen; Frank and wife Maureen of Courtenay, B.C. and their children David and Susan. Tony Ostropolski has three great-grandchildren.

ANDRE AND HELENA OUELLETTE

I, Helena (Bergeron) Ouellette, was born on August 16, 1942, in St. Theresa Hospital, St. Paul, Alberta. I was the second oldest child in the family of nine, born to Simone (Couillard) and Leopold Bergeron.

I spent all my childhood on a farm. My parents, being mixed farmers, always had too much work. Once we got to be old enough, we all had chores to do. I enjoyed milking cows, but sure hated dishes.

This is the little house I lived in with my parents and brothers and sisters until I was 16 years old, then moved to where my parents still are today.

Our parents were tremendous. Even if money was scarce, we always had what we needed and more. To give us all these, I am sure they went without many things.



André and Helena's wedding picture.

I received my education in Lafond School, completing my grade 11. We were very fortunate to have a school bus to pick us up at the door. Before the children were bussed, my brother, Henri and myself boarded at Mr. and Mrs. Argé Gagné. They lived in town. They will always have a special place in my heart. Their welcome arms helped wipe the tears of loneliness. Annette always had gooseberry jam that we loved.

At 16 years of age, I met André Ouellette of Brosseau. He was the seventh child of a family of eight, born to Hélène (Grenier) and Adelard Ouellette. André was born in Vegreville Alberta, April 30, 1942. We were married on July 7, 1962 at St. Bernard Church, Lafond, Alberta by Father Lachance.

We spent three years on the farm in Brosseau. Andy decided he wanted to continue his education and returned to Lafond School and took his grade 12, and received his diploma.

We then moved to Edmonton in Sept. of 1966, where Andy worked to support his family, as well as getting his electrical training which he completed in 1972 at NAIT in Edmonton.

Shortly afterwards, he was employed by Alberta Gas Trunk Line in Vegreville, Alberta. We lived there for 4 years and loved it. A better opportunity



Helena's first communion.



André, Hélène, Mona and Alcide (Taken January 1978).

came up in Athabasca, Alberta, so we sold our house in Vegreville. This house meant lots to us, because it was built by Andy, his dad, and other members of the family. We moved to Athabasca in August 1976. In the four years we've been in Athabasca, Andy worked at and has just completed his four years of Instrumentation Training in Nov. 1980.

I have given up Custom Sewing and babysitting, which I did for some years. I now work at the Nursing Home. Shift work is not always too practical, but I love the work.

Our family consists of four children.

Mona Simone born July 18, 1963

Guy Adelard born April 3, 1965 (died July 3, 1965)

Alcide Fernand born Sept. 7, 1966

Daniel Laurent born April 15, 1971 (died Nov. 3, 1972)

LOUIS PALY

I came to Canada at the age of nine years from Brody, Austria, in 1913 with my parents Tom and Eva, and my brothers Sam, John and Bill. It took us 33 days to arrive in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

From there, we took a train to Innisfree, where we stayed one year with my uncle, Joe Chomlak. Then my parents moved to Lake Eliza district where dad purchased a homestead for the mere amount of \$10.00.

At the age of 15, I went to work for a farmer in the Holden district. When I came home in 1924, I met Mary Rawbuk, and we were married on February 22, 1924.

We settled on our homestead S.W. 30-56-8-W4 at Lake Eliza. I had only two horses but, with the co-operation of Mike Skahun, my neighbor, he would loan his two horses to break my land. We also operated a small grocery store, and I used to deliver cream from Lake Eliza and Lac Bellevue to the Elk Point creamery.



Louis and Mary Paly.



Celebrations at the 50th Wedding Anniversary. L-R: Mary Halina, Mary Paly, Willie Paly (son) Louis Paly, George Boratyneć.

We sold our place in 1956 and moved to Edmonton, where I worked until my retirement. We celebrated our 50th Anniversary in 1973. We now reside at 10226 - 80 St.

We had one son, Willie, born in 1925, who is married now and also lives in Edmonton.

TOM AND EVA PALEY

by Florence Tymchuk

Tom and Eva (nee Chomlak) Paley left their homeland Klekotov, Brody in the Ukraine, in April of 1913. Tom was born in July, 1870 and Eva was born in 1875. They set sail for Canada with four children: Sam, 12; Louis, 9; John, 6; and Bill, 4 years of age.



Tom and Eva going to granddaughter's wedding 1942.

Their journey was a long one as it took them 31 days to arrive to Halifax, Nova Scotia, in the spring of May, 1913. At this time, Tom was 43 years of age and his wife Eva was 38.

Arriving in Halifax, their stay was a very short one, only to rest and in a couple of days they left for Quebec to seek work, however, as there was not sufficient work there, their stay lasted only one month.

In 1914, Tom and Eva, with the children then decided to travel to Alberta as Eva had a brother, Joe Chomlak, who was farming in the Innisfree district.

Immediately upon their arrival, Tom and Eva began to work on the Chomlak farm. Eva helped around the farm, while Tom went out grub hoeing and was earning a mere 50¢ a day. After working approximately 10 months for Mr. Chomlak, Tom had enough money to buy himself a team of oxen and a wagon. It was at this time 1913 that Mr. Chomlak told Tom and Eva that they would have to move to start a life of their own.

They chose Lake Eliza because there was alot of bush, they would have enough to burn and also to build a house.



First Communion at Paley homestead with Rev. Wynik 1935. Front sitting: Billy Krankowsky, John Sadowinsky, Mike Sadowinsky, Walter Sadowinsky, John Tymchuk, Second row: Kneeling, Mike Saiko, Johnny Krankowsky, Annie Sadowinsky, Miss Saiko, Rev. Wynik, Unknown, Frank Krankowsky girls, Steve Tymchuk, Back row: Tom Paley, Mrs. Mike Krankowsky, Eva Paley, Mrs. Frank Krankowsky, Jean Saiko, Mrs. Demchuk, Mrs. Steve Demchuk, Mr. and Mrs. Saiko, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Tymchuk.

Upon their arrival in the Lake Eliza district, they bought their first homestead, which was the N.W. 30-55-8-W4th. The stay was very short when in late 1914, the house they built burned down.

In 1915, Tom purchased another quarter of land S.W. 33-55-8-W4th, built a two room log shack with a straw covered roof. His land cost him \$10.00. He started out farming about 10 acres of land and later cleared more to have a total of 60 acres. At that time, he was still working with oxen.

While Tom was farming, he still took extra work grub hoeing for different people. His jobs took him



Tom Paley working his land 1936.

as far away as the Lavoy and Mundare areas which required walking for 2 full days. He usually stopped to rest and catch a few winks in some strawstack. Tom usually left on a Sunday, worked 4 to 5 days, then returned on the weekend with enough earnings to buy the few necessities one needed for a growing family. On his way home, he would stop at a store operated by a Mr. Smoliak which was located on the hills across the North Saskatchewan River. Here he would buy a 100 pound sack of flour, throw it over his shoulder and walk home. When he would arrive at the river, he would holler for T.C. Ashworth to come and meet him by boat. After he would cross, he would have another two miles before he got home. Carrying this large load required frequent stops to rest and took that much longer to get home. As Eva raised a few chickens, their meals usually consisted of eggs and bread. Meals certainly were not fancy as they are today, however, they did keep up the strength.

It was in 1915 that Tom Paley with the help of a Mr. Sedorchuk and a Mr. Demchuk decided a cemetery was needed. The three men cut down a spruce, peeled it and made the very first cross which was put on the St. Michael's Cemetery.

In February of 1916, they had their fifth child, a daughter named Nellie.

Tom and Eva farmed on this land until the year 1929 when Tom and Eva decided to move to Mannville to purchase a quarter of better land. Only four years lapsed when in 1933, they got lonesome, only to move back to their homestead in Lake Eliza.

Now they knew this was going to be a permanent stay. They farmed up until the year 1945 when they retired and bought a house in Myrnam for \$1,200.00. They lived in Myrnam until 1963 when they moved to Surrey, B.C. to live with their eldest son, Sam. After one year passed, Tom and Eva did not like the Rockies so the decision was made to move back to Alberta.

In the fall of 1965, Tom and Eva came to live with their daughter Nellie and son-in-law Fred Paziuk. It was here they lived for 2 years when trag-

edy struck in October of 1967 and Tom lost his life in a house fire at the age of 97 years. His wife Eva was residing in the Eagle view Lodge in Myrnam at the time. Eva lived there 2 years more and at Easter of 1969, she passed away at the age of 94 years.

Tom and Eva had 5 children of which 4 are still living. Sam; Langley, B.C., Louis; Edmonton, John; St. Paul, and Nellie (Paziuk), St. Paul. Tom and Eva were predeceased by one son Bill in 1917.

ALBERT PARADIS FAMILY

by Margaret Paradis

Aimable and Virginia Paradis moved from Manitoba in the early 1900's with their eleven children. Five of the boys took homesteads seven miles north of Hairy Hill — around Cucumber Lake. Albert, Ulderic, Felix, Raoul and Florian farmed there until 1918 when they decided to move to the Foisy district. Another group of settlers looking for homesteads, Foisy's, had moved to the Foisy district in 1905.



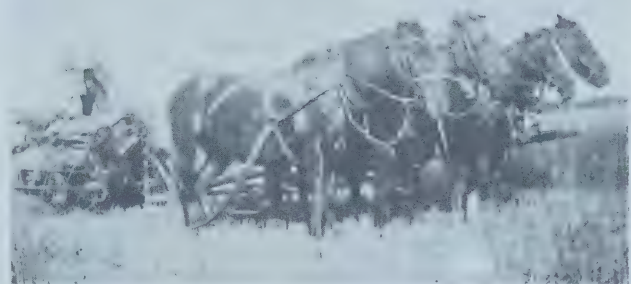
Albert and Eva Paradis on their wedding day. May 1919.



Albert Paradis Family, app. 1955. Back row: Maurice, Mae, Ella, Ernestine, Roma, Claire, Camille. Front: Hormidas, Eva, Albert, Hilda.

Albert met Eva Foisy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alphonse Foisy. They fell in love and were married in May 1919, and went on a honeymoon to Edam, Saskatchewan. They raised nine children, all of whom attended school at Big Fish Lake.

In 1942 Albert had a stroke and remained paralyzed. His two sons, Hormidas and Camille continued to farm his land for him. In 1950, Albert and Eva moved to St. Paul, where he lived until his death in July 1961. Eva passed away on September, 1968.



Albert Paradis cutting grain early 1930's.



Albert Paradis' first home near Hairy Hill in 1900.

Albert Paradis' children were: Hilda, who married Joseph Devlin. They have two boys, Dennis and Leonard. They live at St. Brides. Hormidas married Margaret Yettaw. They have 4 children; Jeannette, Edmond, Lionel and Dennis. Ella married Armand Doucet. They had 5 children; Raymond, Gloria, Robert, Dennis and Joanne. They lived in Edmonton until 1970 and now reside in St. Paul. Roma married Edmond Poirier. They had 4 children; Gaspard, Diane, Lorraine, and Claudia.

Roma has worked at St. Therese Hospital for many years. They reside in St. Paul. Camille never married. He spent several years in the Royal Canadian Airforce. He got arthritis while in the force and was honorably discharged. He then was barber until he passed away in January, 1976.

Claire married Ed Billsborrow and had 2 children; Richard and Caroline. After Ed's death she married Emery Webster and now lives in Drayton Valley.

Mae married Bill L'Hirondelle. They had 4 children; Lorne, Debbie, Valerie and Sherry. Bill died in a car accident. A few years later she opened a store, Mayfair Fabrics in St. Paul. She met and married Maurice Serniak. They had another addition to their family, Cindy. They make their home in Edmonton.

Ernestine Louise met and married Ted Lavigne. Ted was in the Royal Canadian Airforce at Cold Lake. They went overseas to France for several years. They have 7 children; Christopher, who died in a ship accident while serving with the Cadets in

Halifax, Nova Scotia, Anne, Jaylene, Penny, Kathy, Stephen and Ted. They now reside in Pembroke, Ontario.

Paul Maurice, youngest of the family married Judy Slew. They have 3 children; Jason, Holly and Robin. Paul is in the RCAF and has been since the age of 17. He spent some time overseas. He is now stationed at Yellowknife.

FELIX PARADIS

by Raymond Paradis

Felix, son of Ulderic and Marguerite Paradis, was born in Dejarlais, Alberta, January 31, 1913.

Felix married Ann Hohol and farmed for several years on the W¹/₂ 34-56-11-4, just north of Foisy School. The farm also served as a play-ground and hide-away for some students when classes became boring, or when they decided to chase rabbits. The family consists of two boys, Raymond and Donald and a daughter Joyce.

In the early fifties the Paradis family sold the farm and moved to Edmonton, where Ann currently resides. Felix passed away April 9, 1964.

Ray married Mildred Oswald of Spruce Grove and is an Exploration Inspector with Energy and Natural Resources. They have two children; Preston and Tamara. Shelley passed away in 1974, at the age of 7 years. After residing in Edmonton for several years, Ray, Mildred and family now live on a farm located 4 miles west of Two Hills.

Don married Sophie Merluck of Cadiman, Alberta and resided in Calgary for several years. They have four children, Patrice, Denice, Randy and Leslie. Don is an electrician by trade and is currently in the construction business building houses in Medicine Hat, Alberta for the past eight years, where they now reside.

Joyce married Andre Rivey of St. Edward, Alberta. They have three boys; Lauren, Darren and Jason and now reside in Calgary. André served twenty years in the Canadian Armed Forces. During this time, the family lived for four years in Germany. André is now employed by Calgary Drilling and Supplies. Joyce works as a cashier with Safeway Stores.

HORMIDAS PARADIS AND FAMILY

by Hormidas and Margaret Paradis

Hormidas Paradis attended Big Fish Lake School in the Foisy District. The school had one teacher who taught grades 1 to eight. After leaving school he helped on his dad's farm. Margaret Yettaw also attended the same school until finishing grade



Margaret and Hormidas' Wedding Picture, Nov. 23, 1943. Richard Malo, Roma Poirier, Hormidas, Margaret, Virginia, sister of the bride, Laurent Foisy.

eight. She then went to St. Paul High School for several years. On November 23, 1943, Hormidas and Margaret were married in St. Bernard Church in Lafond by Rev. Father Paul Mailloux. They then made their home in Foisy. Hormidas farmed his own and his dad's land who had suffered a stroke and was unable to work, so with the help of Camille and sometimes a hired hand, they kept the farm



The Hormidas Paradis Family. seated: Margaret and Hormidas. standing: Dennis, Edmond, Lionel, Jeannette.

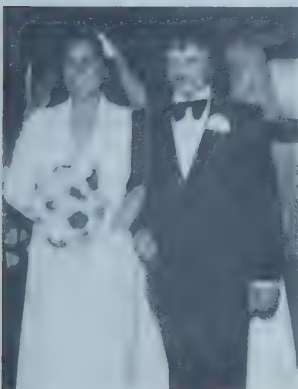


Jeannette and Clem Dubrule with Darryl standing and Randy on Clem's knees, in 1972.

going. In the forties much of the farming was done with horses.

Hormidas and Margaret had four children; Jeannette, born in 1946, Edmond in 1947, Lionel 1948 and Dennis in 1952.

The children all went to Lafond School by bus. After they got home, they always had to help with the chores.



Dennis and Joanne Paradis (1980)

Although times were hard with little money, they had some of the happiest memories. In 1971, Hormidas suffered a stroke. He was paralyzed for ten days. He then gradually recovered. His son Edmond, who had just finished a six week course in plumbing, came home from Edmonton and seeded the crops for us. Hormidas was well enough to harvest it in the fall.

In 1974, Hormidas sold his land to Lionel Foisy and Aime Foisy, and moved to St. Paul. He has worked at the car wash for six years and enjoys it. We both have many fond memories of the years spent in Foisy and Lafond Districts.

Jeannette Paradis was born February 18, 1946. She attended Lafond High School and graduated from there. Jeannette met Clement Dubrule, while working in St. Paul. Clement was working at the St. Paul Foundry apprenticing in welding. They



Edmond and Cheryl Paradis. 1972

were married at Lafond St. Bernard Church on November 7, 1964. They moved to Edmonton where Clem finished his welding course. They now live in Sherwood Park. They have 2 children — Darryl Dean, 13 years, and Randy Scott, 10 years.

Edmond Paradis — oldest son of Hormidas and Margaret, took all his schooling at Lafond. He worked at several different jobs, including the Two Hills Chemical Plant. He then took a plumbing course and apprenticed with Kenneth Yettaw. He moved to Edmonton, and there met Cheryl Latour. They were married at St. Bernard Catholic Church at Lafond on Oct. 14, 1972. They have 2 children; Adrian Ian, born in 1975 and Amber Dawn, born in March, 1979.

Lionel Paradis, was born in 1948. He attended school in Lafond. After graduating he worked at the Two Hills Chemical Plant for several years. He



Lionel and Wendy Paradis and family Dennis, Michele, Trevor, Philip. 1979.

married Wendy Gormerly on Aug. 22, 1970, at St. Bernard Church, Lafond. They have made their home in Leduc, Alberta. Lionel took a course in carpentry. He enjoys working with wood as a hobby. He makes cupboards, grandfather clocks, desks, etc. They have four children; Philip, 9 years, Trevor, 8 years, Dennis, 6 and Michele, 3 years.

Dennis Paradis — the youngest Paradis boy was born in July, 1952. He attended Lafond School until he finished his grade 10. He then attended St. Paul High School. Dennis worked in Edmonton for a year and then decided to join the Royal Canadian Navy. He took his basic training in Halifax, Nova Scotia, in August, 1970. He then was sent to the Esquimalt Base, B.C. After a year in the navy, he was honorably discharged. He worked at different jobs in sheet metal and plumbing. He married Joanne Onyschuk on August 2, 1980 in the Catholic Church, Lethbridge, Alberta. Dennis and Joanne now make their home in Creston, B.C.

PIERRE PARADIS

by Helene Coopey and Armand Foisy

Pierre, son of Ulderich and Marguerite Paradis was born February 3, 1902, in Desjarlais, Alberta.

He farmed the S.E. 33-56-11-4 in the Foisy District until the 1960's.

He passed away on August 24, 1969 in St. Paul, Alberta at the age of 67.



Taken 1920. Pierre Paradis and Elaine Wentworth — she was a teacher at Foisy School at the time.

RAOUL AND DORA PARADIS

by E. K. Paradis

Joseph Raoul Paradis was born December 23, 1885 in Brandon, Manitoba. At the age of 9 years he came west with his family consisting of 7 boys and 5 girls, to settle in the St. Albert District. He had very little schooling as schools were few and far apart.

In his early twenties, Raoul and his younger brother, Felix had a blacksmith shop in Tofield.

Their next move was close to the North Saskatchewan River, where his father built and operated the first Paradis Crossing.

In 1912, he and 2 brothers took homesteads at Cucumber Lake. It was about this time that he first met Dora Marie Foisy from Foisy, Alberta.

On March 31st, 1913 Raoul and Dora were married in the Sacred Heart Church, near Saddle Lake.

Shortly after, they moved to Foisy where their first child, Rose Marie was born on February 12, 1914.

Their next move was to Lafond where they lived for 4½ years. Three more children were born there, Ernest August 23, 1915, Wilfred February 10, 1917, and Florence April 19, 1919.

Again they moved back to Foisy where another daughter, Jeanne, was born June 19, 1921.

Shortly after, they moved to the Cork District and bought Jack Forbes farm, also rented the Burkholder, Fred Sedjauson and Gus Reckanger farms. Here 4 more children were born: Priscilla, March 24, 1928, Lucille, September 3, 1930, Edward, October 3, 1932, Doris, June 12, 1935.

In the 30's, time of depression, it was hard to make ends meet. Raoul and his 2 sons Ernest and Wilfred went to the Beaver River area, to cut tamarack posts, and then sold them in the Cork area for three cents each.

In 1935, Raoul bought the Willie Shaw farm in the Duck Lake District. There were no buildings on this farm, so they rented a house in the district until buildings could be erected.

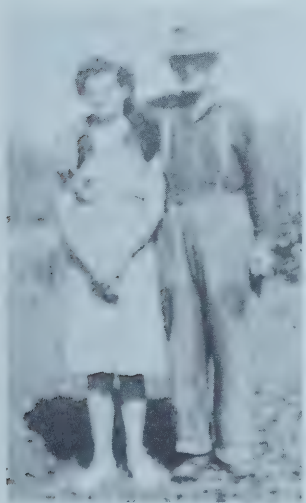
In 1936, a log house, barn, chicken coop and granaries were erected, permitting the Paradis to move on their farm.

At the time, they had 35 head of cattle. These were not worth very much, as a good milk cow was worth only about \$15.00. They also had 3 teams of good horses and 3 saddle ponies.

This first year, they seeded the 15 acres of land that were already under cultivation. This was done by hand as they did not own a seed drill. The following year more land was broken by means of a walking plow.

Raoul was a great horse trader. Many times he would leave home in the morning with a grey team of horses and return at night with a black team, with usually money in his pocket, a profit from the trade.

On September 1, 1937, Raymond their youngest was born.



Raoul and Dora Paradis (née Foisy). Taken 1950.

Two years later a bush fire got out of control and swept through their farm, burning the barns, chicken coop and a granary full of grain.

By this time other families had settled in the community including the Lyttles, Struttles, Babcocks, Stricklers, Jodoin's, and Lessard's.

A school for all the settlers' children was now needed so the people of the district built a log school on the S.W. corner of Hi Strickler's land. Later another school was built across from the Paradis farm.

Dances were the main entertainment at the time. Young and old would participate and whoever could play a musical instrument supplied the music. Sometimes dances lasted until 5 a.m.

In 1941, their sons Ernest and Wilfred joined the army and both returned home safely in 1946.

On April 23, 1953 Raoul was killed in a truck accident, 2 miles north of Ashmont.

Dora remained on the farm with her son Raymond until 1956 when everything but the farm was sold. One year later the land was sold to Cecil Sutherly.

Dora was now living in a small suite in Edmonton. She and her daughter Rose took many trips to Hawaii, Vancouver, and the States.

After a lot of persuasion from her family, she finally moved to the Senior Citizen's Home in St. Paul (Sunnyside Manor) where she is presently living and enjoying good health.

Dora and Raoul Paradis' children are as follows:
Rose born 1914 — deceased 1976.

Florence born 1919 — married Wilf Cameron — 4 children Lorraine, Garry, Wayne, Norma — widowed in 1973 — remarried Ray Brintnell, 1974 — resides in White Rock, B.C.

Jeanne born 1921 — married Raymond Burgess — 3 children, Faye, Ester, and Brenda — resides in Edmonton.

Priscilla born 1928 — married Wayne Smith, 2 boys Wayne and Dean resides in St. Louis, Ill.

Wilfred born 1915 — married Lavina Burgess — 1 child Brian — Wilfred passed away 1968.

Ernest born 1915 — married Elizabeth Whitford — 6 children Carol, Ernie, Allen, Linnette, Lorna and Patricia — Ernest passed away 1977.

Lucille born 1930 — married Berle Workman — 2 children Linda and Donald — resides in Langley, B.C.

Edward born 1932 — married Eloise Wiklun — 1 child Guy — resides in Ashmont.

Doris born 1935 — married Peter Popowich — 4 children Dwayne and Dwight (twins), Trudy and Daren — resides in Two Hills.

Raymond born 1937 — married Marjorie Bertrand — resides in Edmonton.

MR. AND MRS. ULDERIC PARADIS (NEE VILLENEUVE)

by Helen Coopey and Armand Foisy

Amable (known as Balthasar) was born in 1841. He married Virginie Larouche.

Approximately in 1895, they moved from Brandon, Manitoba, to Andrew, Alberta.

In 1919, they came to the Foisy District where Amable operated a sawmill on his son Raoul's farm.

Virginie passed away in Lafond April 9, 1925. Mr. Ulderic Paradis moved back to Manitoba where he passed away at the age of 85 years.

Ulderic, son of Amable Paradis married Marguerite Villeneuve February 25, 1897 in St. Paul, Alberta.

After their marriage they settled near Paradise Crossing, five miles from Whitford, Alberta. They moved in a home that his father Amable had built



Taken in 1927. Mrs. Marguerite Paradis, Mr. Ulderic Paradis with their Ford car. Sitting: Denise Vincent, Cecile Bienvenue, Therese Paradis.



Amable Paradis, father of Amable (Balthazar) Paradis, sitting on a saddle with electric shooter attached to a saddle.

for them. This house still stands today and is used for storage. Their fourteen children were born on this farm at Whitford.

In 1901, influenza struck the family and claimed the life of two daughters, a three year old and a one year old.

In early spring of 1918, Ulderic and Marguerite and their twelve children moved to the Foisy District on the W. 1/2 34-56-11-4. Here they moved into a log shack covered with sod which was already built. Two years later a new and larger house was erected. With the help of his son Pierre they broke more land and farmed until approximately 1930.

Marguerite passed away April 22, 1929 at the age of 54 years. She was buried in the Roman Catholic Cemetery, Lafond.

In 1930, Ulderic remarried Mrs. Rose Delvina Alain. Shortly after they retired in a small home in St. Paul. Mrs. Rose (Alain) Paradis passed away in 1950. Ulderic passed away January 11, 1952 at the age of 85 years.

Their children were as follows;

Isabelle (1898) married Joseph Frigon, had 5 children, died 1951.

Madeleine (1900) married Wilfred Foisy, had 13 children.

Pierre (1902) Single, passed away 1969.

Joseph (1903) Single, passed away 1979.



Taken in 1915. Mr. and Mrs. Ulderic Paradis and family. Back row L-R: Isabelle, Madeleine, Pete, Joe, Elise, Marie, Corrinne. Front row: Florence, Felix, Ulderic, Therese, Marguerite with baby Albert, Alice. Father Lacombe taught Catechism to Madeleine, Pete, Joe, Elise, Marie, Corrinne. He also gave them their first communion.

Elise (1904) married Jack Sutherland had 5 children, passed away 1961.

Marie (1906) married Arthur Foisy, had 4 children.

Corrinne (1907) married Felix Kurowski, had 1 son.

Alice (1909) married Jack McBeam, she passed away January 1981.

Florence (1910) married Percy Sirois, had 2 sons, deceased.

Therese (1911) passed away in 1980.

Felix (1913) married Ann Hohol, had 3 children, passed away 1964.

Albert (1914) Single.

WILLIAM AND BLANCHE PARKINSON

as related by Blanche Parkinson

I was born November 20, 1906, in Superior, Wisconsin, U.S.A. My dad came to the Lafond area in 1909, filed for a homestead and built a log cabin. He had rented a box car from Superior to ship the furniture by rail to Vegreville.



Wedding picture of Mr. and Mrs. William Parkinson (nee Blanche Tremblay)

I came to Canada with my mother and Joe Lockey in 1909, when I was four years old.

I was a real tomboy. I didn't do much work in the house because I loved the outdoors. I don't know what dad would have done without me, for many times I was doing the work of a man, taking his place when he had a back ache.

One of those instances was when I was taking his place on the mower to cut hay. I was ten or eleven years old. A horse fly was biting a horse and they were pulling the hay mower too fast and the steel wheels of the mower hit a rock. It almost threw me off the seat. I had to grab the seat and hang on. Lifting the tongue of the mower to hook it to the neck yoke was hard for me to do.

While I was cutting hay, my future husband went by with Mr. Cloutier, a real estate man, to go and take a look at land called "Marion's quarter". For many years he (my husband) followed that trail across that quarter of land to go to work at Marion's. I was raking the hay, and my dad with Mr. Small was stacking it, when Mr. Parkinson went by and first saw me.

I remember my dad would adjust the seat on the rake and hay mower, so that my feet would reach the controls.

I also drove the horses on the binder, with my brother Thomas sitting in a little box placed in front of the binder, where he could touch the slow horse with a whip to make him keep up with the rest of the horses.

While driving and running the binder, I always had to watch for loose bundles and where to drop them on the next row, I also had to watch and set the reel. Thomas was three years younger than I was. While I was doing all this, my dad was stooking.

I loved to work outside and I still do. You can tell by taking a look at my yard. I also did some housework when my mother was sick, but I think I learned more about cooking after I got married. I also helped dad in the winter when he went in the hay fields to get a load of hay from the two-ton



William and Blanche Parkinson and their only son Tom.

stacks we called slides. This long hay was very hard to loosen up from the stack in the winter and my dad would cut chunks of it with a hay knife from the stack near the barn, so I could feed the cattle when he was away freighting. It was hard work for a girl to do as I remember it, but work never killed anyone and I was feeling good and healthy. Another piece of hard work was cleaning the barn every day. My dad put some boards outside the barn to make it easier for me to push the wheelbarrow to the manure pile. The wheelbarrow was too big for a little girl to push and I found this to be hard work. Sometimes the cows would crowd around me and upset the wheelbarrow.

We had a cow that was so hard to milk we had to sell her. It was too bad because she gave a whole pail of milk. One spring I broke in four heifers as milk cows. We had ten cows to milk at one time and my mother was sick and dad couldn't very well milk as his hands would swell. We also had to separate the milk with a smaller "De Laval" cream separator. I had 98 chicks to take care of that spring.

I could neigh like a horse and call the chicks to me like a hen does when danger threatened, like when a hawk would fly over, I would imitate the hen call and kneel on the ground and the chicks would run towards me and crawl under my dress.

After I was married I did a lot of canning. One fall I had 400 quarts of canned food. These were vegetables and meat — chicken meat, turkey and also beef. I also canned sausage. After we learned canning in glass quart jars, we didn't salt meat anymore.

Towards spring my husband would butcher a fat 2½ year old steer and I would can it for summer meat. I would make soup with the bones and also canned the soup.

Late in the fall, we would butcher a beef for winter meat and it was cut and put in storage in a cold room in a large wooden box. After Willy (my husband) was finished making this box which looked like a box they used to make in the old days to put a coffin in before burial, a Ukrainian woman (Mrs. Popowich) called on us to sell cabbages, and when she saw this box she said, pointing to the box, "dead, dead"? I went to get a piece of meat and showed her by sign what it was for. The woman felt very much relieved.

I would cook breakfast early in my housecoat and Mrs. Popowich showed up one morning and said to me. "sick, sick", I answered, "no, not sick". She would sell a large cabbage head for 5 cents. I would give her a glass of milk which she liked to drink.

The first time I ever ate bought canned food was when I went with my dad to Lavoy, a small town eight miles east of Vegreville, to sell a load of pigs. The man who came with us bought a can of peaches and did I ever love it. After the trip, I

told mother how delicious they were, and she replied that it was too bad because it was a luxury we could not afford to buy. I saw my first train one morning from a hotel window in Lavoy. What a happy sight it was for me to see! The coiled rope by the hotel room window aroused my curiosity and my dad told me it was to slide down to the ground in case of fire.

In the 1960's, I began to beautify my yard and I have added to it every year. I started by making several flower beds and adding some each year. I then added a Red River cart, some animals — several deer, some made of cast iron and one is made of cement, some Canada Geese, some hens with chicks, mother's big cast iron pot in which soap was made. My brother Paul built me an old time biffy (outhouse) that sits on the lawn, and can be used in case of emergencies. At Christmas time, all this is lit up, plus the Crib with all the personages, the Wise Men, the camels and also Santa and his reindeers.

I am now 74 years old and well. I enjoy living in my home on the farm. I receive many visitors who come to see my yard, which is particularly pretty in summer and at Christmas time.

We had one son, Tommy, who married Yvonne Roy of St. Paul. They lived in Spirit River, where Tommy was manager of the Co-op Store. They moved to Swan Hills where they have their own general store. They have two children: Elaine and Billy. Elaine is married and has 2 children. Billy works on oil rigs.

I, Blanche Parkinson (nee Tremblay) married William Parkinson on January 20, 1926. He was born at Whitewood, Saskatchewan.

When the 1914 World War broke out, Mr. William Stewart Parkinson abandoned harvesting a record crop to quickly enlist, thinking the war would last about three months. He enlisted August 10, 1914, in the cavalry with the Lord Strathcona Horse. He served with great devotion and was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for service beyond the call of duty.

We are indebted to Mr. Johnny Madiuk who was instrumental in obtaining Mr. Parkinson's record of brave deeds performed at the front. This information was obtained from Ottawa where his military record is on file.

This distinguished Conduct Medal was awarded to him with the following citation for bravery in action. "For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in an attack. Finding that the enemy were occupying a strong point, he rushed the position with one man, causing about 100 of the enemy to retire across the open, where they were cut up by machine gun fire. Though wounded, he brought up the remainder of his troops and consolidated the position. He displayed splendid courage, and set an excellent example to his men."

For another act of bravery for which he was awarded the bar to the Distinguished Conduct Medal, the citation reads as follows: "For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during an attack upon four lines of enemy defences. He led a bombing party with great dash, clearing 600 yards of enemy trench and bombing nineteen dug-outs himself, and afterwards establishing a block with remarkable rapidity and preventing the enemy from making any further organized resistance. He displayed boundless energy and fearlessness."



Mrs. Blanche Parkinson. Life member of Ladies Auxilliary Branch No. 100.

When Mr. Parkinson enlisted, one local man said he would either win medals or be killed. He won the medals, and was very nearly killed. Courage he had, fear he had not. Sgt. Parkinson was wounded at least twice. The last time he was hit by machine gun bullets and was severely wounded. He lay in a ditch for several hours when three German prisoners came by and debated among themselves whether or not he was worth picking up. Finally they got a piece of culvert which they used as a stretcher and carried him back of the front lines to a dressing station where he lay for thirteen days. His sister Jean, a nurse in the army, was instrumental in having him transferred to King George Hospital in London where he spent many long months recovering from his wounds. He was discharged June 12, 1919 with the rank of Squadron Sergeant Major.

Mr. Parkinson took an active part in town and community life. He was an early member of the St. Paul Branch, Canadian Legion and also served as president of the Local Chamber of Commerce, Reeve of Champlain Municipality, President of St. Paul Agricultural Society, and President of the St. Paul Co-operative Association. In addition he was a member of the Alberta Wheat Pool, and an active member of the Farmer's Union.

He passed away on July 28, 1959.

STANLEY PAWLYK

by Mary Gadowsky

Stanley Pawlyk was born on April 28th, 1892 in Bolestraszyce, District of Premysl, Poland. His parents were Catherine and John Pawlyk. He had a younger brother Walter and three sisters; Mary, Rosie and Tillie. Stanley emigrated to Canada in 1914 just before the outbreak of the First World War. During the war years, he worked in different places in Western Canada, mainly in Saskatchewan, quite often as a farm laborer.

In 1919, he came to Slawa, Alberta, where he married a young widow, Justyna Klachinski from the pioneer family of Mary and Peter Malinowski. She had lost her husband Sam in 1918 during the flu epidemic. Stanley also adopted the two orphan daughters Mary and Ann. There were two sons, John and Frank and a daughter Ethel born of this marriage. They farmed in the Slawa district until 1944.



Stanley Pawlyk will be remembered for his operating a store in the Lac Bellevue Community — store was located across the road from present hall site.

Stanley Pawlyk loved travelling and was fascinated by the scenery of the mountains. In 1944, he moved to Vernon, B.C. where he stayed until 1947. In 1947 he came back to Alberta to the Lac Bellevue district where he built a small country store right across the road from the Lac Bellevue Community Hall. This was of service to the people of the district as not everyone owned a car to pick up the groceries from St. Paul which was twelve miles away. In 1953, the store burned down.

Stanley spent the following years working in the Banff Springs Hotel. Then he moved to Myrnam where he resided until 1968. Prior to his death, he spent a number of years in the St. Paul Nursing Home, also the Nursing Home at Two Hills.

Stanley Pawlyk passed away on March 24th, 1977 at the age of 84. Daughter Mary was married to Peter Gadowsky and taught in the Lac Bellevue area for a number of years. Ann is married to Kosty Kostoniuk and is residing in Winnipeg. John is retired and is living in St. Paul. Frank is farming in the Myrnam area. Ethel is married to Nick Tuleck and is employed at the Myrnam Hospital. He left his wife Justyna, 14 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren. Also sister Rosie Cherniak who is still living in the Ukraine.

A SHORT STORY ON THE FRED PAZIUK FAMILY

by Florence Tymchuk

Fred Paziuk, a twin, was born November 20, 1913 in Calgary, Alberta. As a very young child, he, his parents, and the rest of the family members moved to a homestead at S.W. 13-56-9-4th, just 1¼ miles east of Lac Bellevue Hall. Fred was the third oldest son of a family of eleven children.

At the age of 10 years, Fred began going to Henley School. Having only bush trails then, Fred and his older brothers walked some 3 miles to and from school which was during the summer months only. He attended Henley School only one year when in about 1923, Lac Canard School was built and Fred and his brothers transferred over.

During the late 20's, the family sold their homestead to Joe Kryvenchuk to purchase a quarter of land S.E. 17-56-9-4 from Donat Noel, some 3½ miles west of their original homestead.

In 1932, Fred's father, Nick Paziuk had passed away and Fred remained on this new location with his mother Tessie, and a few of the family members. As years kept slipping by, some members of the family began leaving home and in approximately 1936, his mother moved to Beauvallon, Alberta to take up residence.

Fred remained on his father's land to proceed with the farming, however, being a bachelor, he knew he could not do this alone so in 1937, Fred met Nellie Paley and in October 30, 1937, they were married. Together, Fred and Nellie began a new life. Some six years passed when Fred and Nellie sold this land to purchase S.W. 17-56-9-4, from Paul Malech in 1943. He also farmed a quarter directly across the road to the south N.W. 8-56-9-4.

Fred and Nellie raised a family of five children: one son Russell and four daughters; Florence, Eileen, Dian and Libby.

Fred and Nellie participated in many community projects. During the early years of their marriage, Fred and Nellie, along with their neighbours, helped one another at anything that needed doing.



Family picture of Fred and Nellie Paziuk taken Oct. 4, 1980. L-R: Dian Paziuk, Florence Tymchuk, Fred Paziuk, Libby Plamondon, Nellie Paziuk, Russell Paziuk, Eileen Rosentreter.

As a daughter writing this story, I clearly remember when the roads were blocked to the extent where no one was able to get through and my father Fred and his neighbours all gathered with shovels to open the road. It took all day to shovel some 100 yards, then with a horse and a large metal tied behind, my father went 3 miles to the nearest opened road to catch a ride to town to buy groceries for the family.



Supplying Fuel for winter: Picture taken at Fred Paziuk's farm in 1959. L-R: Nellie Paziuk, Bill Forchuk, Russell Paziuk, Fred Paziuk.



Fred and Nellie Paziuk's wedding Oct. 30, 1937 with all guests in attendance. Picture taken at bride's home place, Tom and Eva Paley. Musicians: Reece Demchuk, Steve Bodnar, John Markowsky.

After several years had passed, and Fred's son Russell was able to look after the farm, Fred took some short jobs which first included working for the Power Company. He started in Forestburg and moving later to Vermilion, however, being away from home just was not Fred's liking so he quit his job and returned home to be with his wife and family. He still took winter jobs in a bush camp which only lasted a few years.

In 1966, Fred and Nellie's land was bought by the Community Pasture and Fred and Nellie moved to St. Paul. Both Fred and Nellie went to work for a few years up until his retirement in 1976. Both Fred and Nellie are great out-doors people who enjoy camping and fishing.

MIKE PAZIUK FAMILY

by Mike Paziuk



L-R: Lorie, Don, Eileen, Roger, Carol, Ken. Seated: Helen and Mike Paziuk.

I, Mike Paziuk was born in Calgary, Alberta in November 1912 to Mr. and Mrs. Nick Paziuk.

At the age of two, we moved to a homestead in the Lac Bellevue area and I attended Lake Canard School and farmed with mom and dad until 1932.

In 1934, I purchased a farm in the Lake Eliza district, and in November of that year I married Helen Cherniawsky. Helen had attended Swedboro School and lived with her folks Mr. and Mrs. John Cherniawsky till her marriage.

To this union, four children were born, in Elk Point hospital: Ken, on January 31, 1936; Carol, on August 28, 1937; Eileen, on November 9, 1940; and Roger on January 25, 1943.

In the spring of 1945, we sold the farm at Lake Eliza and moved to Cutknife, Saskatchewan, where we purchased a farm and worked it until 1978. During this time, two more children were born, in Cutknife Union Hospital: Don on March 5, 1947, and Lorie on October 1953.

We are now retired and living in the town of Cutknife. The three boys are married and continuing in farming and ranching in the Cutknife area. Carol is married and lives in New Westminster, B.C. Eileen is married and resides in Bowden, Alberta. Lorie is a hairdresser and lives and works in Battleford, Saskatchewan.

Any old friends who happen to travel through Cutknife are invited to stop in and see us.

THE NICK PAZIUK HISTORY

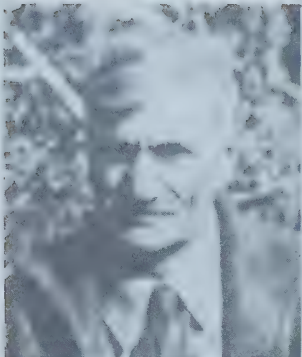
by Florence Tymchuk

Nick Paziuk was born in 1878 in the village of Colindon, Povite County, Austria. In 1907, at the age of 29 years, he left his home land for Canada with hopes of finding work to bring his wife Tessie, and their three children Antonia, John and Elsie to join him.

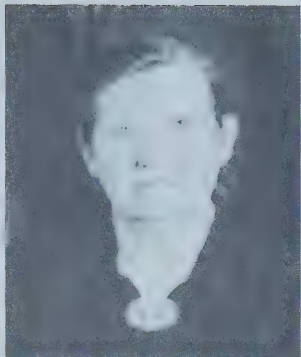
Nick returned to Austria in 1908 to make arrangements to bring his family over. In 1910, Nick



L-R: Fred, Ken, Russel, Eileen, Carol and Mike Paziuk. Cutting a crop of oats at the Lake Eliza farm in 1942.



Nick Paziuk



Tessie Paziuk

again set sail to Canada and took up settlement in the Kenmore area. His heart was filled with joy when in 1911, his wife Tessie, her parents, Damco and Ustina Zahorodny and three of Nick and Tessie's children, Antonia, John and Nacta (nee Elsie) were reunited in Canada. There wasn't too much work to be found there, so in 1912 the entire family moved to Calgary, Alberta where Nick was employed by the city. Three years passed and Nick and Tessie were rewarded with another three sons, Mike, (Fred and Steve who were twins).

Land in the Calgary area was expensive, so with a grand sum of 50¢ in the pocket, Nick and his family decided on buying their very own homestead. On Oct. 16, 1913 Nick went homesteading in the Lac Bellevue district. Their first stopover was in Vegreville, Alberta. They were drayed to their homestead, approximately 2 miles east of Lac Bellevue hall, which was bare bush land. The children were little and thirst and hunger overcame them. There was no house so Nick and Tessie set up a tent to shelter their family. While going to look for water for the children, they built a fire to keep the mosquitoes away, however being in a strange area, the parents got lost and the fire got away, the chil-

dren nearly burned to death. They then moved their tent near a slough for better protection.

That first summer of their arrival they cleared about 5 acres of land, enough to build a small house, have enough plowed for a garden and still be able to seed a few acres.

Nick saw a great improvement the first few years he was on his homestead. Then 1918 rolled along and the year was worse than he'd expected. There was a shortage of feed so they had to take the straw off the roof to feed the few cattle they had. When there were a few bushels of grain to sell, Nick hauled it to the nearest train station, Vermillion, Alberta.



Tessie Paziuk with her sons, Peter, Fred, Bill, John, Mike and Harry.

As Nick and Tessie struggled to make a go of it, another five children were born, Bill, Annie, Helen, Peter and Harry. The children attended Henley School, summer months only. In 1922 Lac Canard school was built, which Nick's son John helped to work on and the children transferred over.

In the late 20's Nick sold his quarter of land to Joe Kryvenchuk and bought a quarter some 4 miles west of his old location. His new land description was S.E. 17-56-9-4.

In December of 1932, tragedy struck the family when Nick and Tessie lost their 12 year old daughter, Annie. Two weeks later Nick passed away. An unforgettable year for Tessie and her children. In 1934, Tessie knew the children were old enough to take care of themselves so Tessie, Bill, Peter and Helen moved to Rannock to start a rather new life



The Paziuk Family at their mother's residence Hairy Hill 1940. L-R: Elsie Paziuk with Russell in arms, Mossey Ewasiuk, Helen Paziuk, Baba Paziuk, Bill Paziuk, Fred Paziuk, Ludwig Gadowski, Harry Paziuk, Peter Paziuk.



Helen Yasheyko, Elsie Scully, Antonia Gadowski, Tessie Paziuk (sitting).

for themselves. They farmed there for approximately seven years, then moved to Hairy Hill where they went into a Cafe business. Some 10 years passed when Tessie decided to move back to Myram, Alberta. She lived there up until the time of her death in 1947.

Nick and Tessie had 11 children of whom 8 are still living; John Paziuk, Taylor, Michigan; Elsie and Scully, Unity, Saskatchewan; Mike Paziuk, Cut Knife, Saskatchewan; Fred Paziuk, St. Paul, Alberta; Harry Paziuk, Unity, Saskatchewan; Bill Paziuk, Vegreville, Alberta; Peter Paziuk, Lloydminster, Alberta; and Helen Yasheyko, Edmonton, Alberta.

RUSSEL AND PAULINE PAZIUK AND FAMILY

by Russell Paziuk

Russell Paziuk, son of Nellie and Fred Paziuk was born on October 22, 1939. He attended Lac Canard and Lac Bellevue schools to grade eight and attended high school at St. Paul. Pauline Robinson, born May 30th, 1942, daughter of Jeannette and Laurent Robinson, was educated in the Lafond School. Immediately completing school at Lafond, Pauline moved to St. Paul and entered the work force.

Russell and Pauline were married on October 20th, 1962. On February 28th, 1964, they had a son, Dwayne. In 1966, the family moved to Thorhild, Alberta, where they became involved in a tire business and on the 10th of October, 1966, had their first of two daughters, Darcey. In 1968, Pauline

entered hairdressing, training at the Sophie Tuson School of Hairdressing and upon completion of training, established a hairdressing shop in the Village of Thorhild, Alberta. Danita, the second daughter, was born October 1st, 1969.

In the fall of 1975, the family moved back to the St. Paul area and later purchased a parcel of land west of Lafond. Interestingly enough, the land they now reside on was once called Eskow Beach, where, during the 30's, many rodeos were held and where once stood a dance hall. It is interesting to note that, as we write this, the rodeo grounds where many events took place, now are submerged under the waters of Lac Santé.

Russell, from the age of 10 years, was involved with numerous dance bands in the St. Paul area, and remembers, when back about 1950, while attending the Lac Bellevue School, the day would be spent learning math, spelling, etc., and immediately after classes, Steve Petruk, the teacher, and Russell, the student, would spend many hours playing music.



Paziuk Family 1980, Back row: Russell, Pauline, Front row: Danita, Dwayne, Darcey.

Today Russell is playing music with his family; Dwayne, Darcey, and Danita and with two nephews, Don Tymchuk and "Mitch" Bouchard, entertaining people throughout the same areas as when Russell was a young boy, and if one could look back in time, probably the 20's, 30's and 40's, the people within our areas and communities may have

changed, but we visualize Pauline's parents, Laurent and Jeannette Robinson and Russell's Uncle John Paley walking up the same steps to the community hall stages as today do Dwayne, Darcey and Danita; Russell and Pauline's children

PEARSON, ANDREW JUNIOR, AND FAMILY

by Andrew Pearson

I was born December 31, 1937. We lived in a log house which was heated with firewood. Kerosene was used in a lamp for light. I started school at the age of eight. The school I went to was called Swedboro, and was located two miles from home.

It was a one-room school, and classes were up to Grade Nine, so in order to go to high school, I would have had to go to Elk Point or St. Paul. The school was heated by a large wood heater. In the winter when it got very cold, we would move the school desks very close to the heater to do our studies.

I can recall going to school when it was very cold. My sandwiches would freeze in my lunchbox, so I had to thaw them on the heater. Mother and dad always made sure I had good warm clothes in the winter to wear to school — very seldom I ever got cold. In the winter I used skis, and in summer I walked to school. It was hard to attend school regularly because it was difficult to get teachers to stay out in a country school.

My first teacher was R. McMillan, then Mrs. R. Rawluk, Miss E. Roman, Miss L. Krochmal, Mrs. Fithen, and Miss Mary Swanson.

Roads were very poor, and there were no phones and no electricity.



Andrew Pearson and Andrew Junior.

I quit school in 1953 and started farming.

I got married August 18, 1960 to Livina Mytrosh from the Stoney Lake area. We have three children: Andrew Torry, born March 1, 1961; Marlen Roseann, born November 6, 1964; and Jerry Ross, born December 1, 1968.

I also operate heavy-duty equipment. I have worked for Williams Land Development, St. Paul; M & B Construction, Two Hills; Noel and Blanchette Construction, St. Paul; Grahm Construction, Saskatoon; P.C.2 Construction, Edmonton; and I was foreman for Delta Projects on the Leming plant for Imperial Oil at Cold Lake, Alberta.

I also got together with a few local musicians and we formed a dance band. We entertain for dances, weddings, etc.

I am now farming S.W. 21-56-8-W4 in the Lake Eliza area with my son, Andrew.

PEARSON, ANDREW F. AND JENNIE

by Jennie Pearson, as told to Andrew Pearson, Junior

Andrew F. Pearson was born on 2nd September, 1886 at Lycksite, Sweden, and passed away on November 1, 1969.

I, Jennie Feniak was born on 15 February, 1911, in Raivnnia, Ukraine.

I lived with my parents in a small village called Raivnnia, in the Ukraine. I spent much of my time helping my parents work in the fields. The land was quite rolling and poor, which made it very hard for people to grow even enough food to live on.



Mr. and Mrs. A. Pearson on their wedding day Feb. 2, 1935. At the original homestead. Notice the hewed logs as an outer wall on their first house.



Andrew F. Pearson falling timber in B.C. 1925.

My father heard that a lot of emigrants were going to Canada. So he made a great decision: if we moved to Canada, he could buy a quarter-section of land for a small sum of money. So we made arrangements to leave for a strange country.

We came to Mundare, Alberta on 5th September 1927, and stayed with relatives for a while. Then we moved to the Lake Eliza area and bought a quarter-section of land, N.E. 35-55-8-W4, and started to farm. It was very hard. All the work was done by hand.

Mr. Andrew Pearson came from Sweden on August 18, 1919, and bought a homestead in the Lake Eliza district, S.E. 21-56-8-W4, for ten dollars. He then did some brushing on the land. In order to keep the homestead, he had to do some improvements each year on it. Clearing was all done by hand.

By profession, he was a lumberman, and he went to work in a bush-camp in B.C. to earn some money for improvements on the farm. Money was hard to come by. This carried on for quite a number

of years, working in B.C. falling timber and working at the sawmills. He then came back to the farm to start doing some building on it.

In the meantime, he stayed with his brother Ludweg who lived on the next quarter-section. He then cut down trees and hewed the logs to build a house. The shingles were home-made also. He cut some of the logs into blocks first, and then sliced shingles off these blocks. All the logs were taken out of the bush by hand, because he had no horses yet. He then cleared more land and got horses to plow, breaking and working down the land.

Mr. Andrew Pearson and I, Jennie Feniak got married at St. Paul, Alberta on 2 February, 1935. Rev. Father Ludovic Larose was the clergyman. The wedding dance was held in the house on the farm. Total silver collection was five dollars. The musicians were John Prodaniuk on violin and Bill Prodaniuk on dulcimer. They charged two dollars for playing at the wedding dance.

I could not speak any English when I got married. It was very hard to communicate with each other, but as time went on, I learned to speak English.

Wood was used for heating and cooking. Kerosene was used in a lamp for light. For water supply, we had a well dug by hand, twenty-five feet deep by four feet square.

On December 31, 1937 our first and only child, Andrew Junior was born.

We got our mail once a week at Lake Eliza Post Office which was five miles from home.

Our family doctor was F. G. Miller, who later was joined by Dr. Ross. Watkins and Rawleigh products were used for mild medication throughout the district.

To visit in the area or go to town for groceries, we would walk or go by horse and wagon. We would go to town once a month, and would buy most of the groceries at Markstad's store, later changed to Andrishak's store, in Elk Point.

My husband would do a fair amount of hunting and fishing in the Stoney Lake area. I always planted a garden, and this would keep the grocery bills down.

There were good times, too. Dances were held in homes, until halls and schools were built. Also, there were picnics in the district, including ball games, races, and horse-shoe tournaments. These were the depression years.

For transportation, we used horse and wagon. Since there weren't any roads, only trails, this was the best way and the only way. In later years, roads were built slowly, using horses. As the years progressed, more land was bought and cleared. We got our first new tractor in 1950 and our first new half-ton truck in 1953.

I retired in 1961 and moved to Elk Point, and lived there until 1977. At present, I am living at Sunnyside Manor in St. Paul, Alberta. I still go and visit the family farm, which I really enjoy. It brings back many many memories.

PETRUK, ALEX

Alex Petruk was born in 1878 in the village of Orelick, west Ukraine, the son of peasant parents. As a young man, he worked for the priest in the village. In the year 1899, Alex married Sophie Petruk, a girl of the same village and the same maiden name as his.

Their first son, John, was born in 1901. Living in the village and raising a family, they faced many struggles. By 1914, they had a family of five children: John, Bill, Tom, Mary, and Andrew.

Alex had a younger brother, John, who had been farming in Canada for three years. This brother and his family had bought land in the Mundare district and were well settled. So in 1914 Alex and Sophie and their family decided to leave their native land and seek a better life. They arrived in Canada on April 14, 1914, and came to his brother



Alex Petruk with his sons and sons-in-law. L-R: Tony Krankowski, Wm. Topichka, Dad, John, Bill, Tom, Andrew, Harry, missing from picture, Mike.



Sophie and Alex Petruk 1935.



Mother Petruk with her daughters and daughters-in-law L-R: Lena (Hodinsky), Helen (Krankowsky), Mary (Topichka), Mother, Mary Gorash, Mary Makowecki, Jenny Lukenchuk, Jean Wertypora, Julia Stelmaschuk.

John's place at Mundare, and stayed there for a little over a year.

In July, 1914, Alex filed for a homestead in the Lac Bellevue district. At once, he cleared a small area and started to build a house for his family, so that he could move them there the following summer. Hardships were still part of his life. Alex walked from Mundare to Lac Bellevue, about 65 miles, many times, carrying a bag of grub on his back. But a year later he had the house built and his family, now six, with the birth of Harry on July 5, 1914, moved to Lac Bellevue. There they began a new life, and worked very hard.

In 1919, when crops were very poor and the winter very hard, the neighbors were short of feed for their stock. Some farmers cut birch willows to feed to the cattle. Alex Petruk's house had a thatched roof, and the neighbors pleaded with him to have the sheaves off the roof to exchange for boards to cover his house. This was not too bad during snowy weather when the temperature was low. But when spring came and the rain was falling, the plastered ceiling got wet and started falling down. Mother and the children had to take shelter under the big kitchen table. In summer, when the grass grew tall again, Alex and Sophie had to make enough hay sheaves to put a new thatched roof on



The Alex Petruk Family. 1942. Children and Grandchildren.

the house. With all these and other hardships, they never gave up farming.

They raised a family of nine children: six sons and three daughters.

The sons are: John, Bill, Tom, Andrew, Harry, and Mike.

The daughters are: Mary Topichka of Vegreville; Helen T. Krankowsky of Lake Eliza; Lena Hodinsky of Beaverdam.

The youngest son, Mike, is presently farming the home-place.

Alex and Sophie stayed on the farm until Alex died on May 2, 1949 and Sophie died on February 17, 1953.

Their second-oldest son, Bill, died on December 17, 1964.

PETRUK, ANDREW AND JEAN

by Julia Petruk

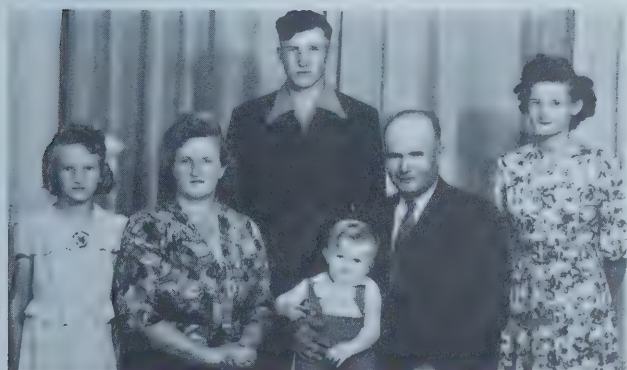


Jean and Andrew Petruk.

Andrew is the third youngest son of Alex and Sophie Petruk. He was farming at Lac Bellevue from 1933 to 1950. Andrew and Jean have one son, Ernie. They are now living in Vernon, British Columbia.

PETRUK, BILL AND MARY

by Julia Petruk



Bill and Mary Petruk Family: L-R: Eva (Palichuk), Mary, Johnny, Victor, Bill, Mabel (Krozanowski).

Bill Petruk was the second oldest son of Alex and Sophie Petruk. He and his wife Mary farmed at Lac Bellevue from 1930 to 1946. Then they moved to Ranfurly and farmed there until Bill's death in 1964. His wife Mary retired from farming, and is living in Vegreville, now.

PETRUK, HARRY AND JULIA

Harry is the second youngest son of Alex and Sophie Petruk. He married Julia Stelmashuk of Spedden in 1939.

During the earlier years, Julia took an active part in the community, played many roles in plays and concerts, and helped to organize picnics and other social do's.

Harry and Julia were members of the Hall organization for 35 years. For many of those years, they were doing the janitor work at the Hall.

They farmed for 40 years in the Lac Bellevue district. They have two daughters, Nadia and Lillian.

Nadia is married and living in Edmonton.

Lillian is married and living in St. Paul.

Julia and Harry are retired, and live on the home place.

Nadia (Petruk) Shawly — Nadia, a daughter of Harry and Julia Petruk, is married to Al Shawly. She is working with Canada Packers in the Oils Chemistry section. Al is a blender with 28 years' experience at Imperial Oil, Canada.



L-R: Nadia, Dwayne and Chris Bilawchuk.



Harry and Julia Petruk, 1960.



John Pilipchuk Family. L-R: Lillian (with Tamara on knee), John, Dean, Trevor.

Their son Chris is Produce Manager for C.W. Boon and their second son, Dwayne is in Grade Eleven at Bonnie Doon School.

Lillian (Petruk) Pilipchuk — Lillian, the second daughter of Harry and Julia Petruk, married John Pilipchuk in 1965. They are both presently teaching in St. Paul, where they have their home. In addition, John farms the homestead of Harry Petruk, and also his own land. They have three children: Trevor, Dean, and Tamara.

PETRUK, JOHN AND MARY

by Julia Petruk

John Petruk is the oldest son of Alex and Sophie Petruk. John and his family farmed at Lac Bellevue from 1922 to 1935. Then they bought land at Ranfurly and farmed there for a number of years. From there, they moved to Edmonton, and are retired in the city at the present time.



John Petruk Family, 1958. L-R; Top: Paul, Bill, George, Metro. middle row: Annie (Huzer), Alice (Kawalchuk), Irene (Andicott). Front: John, Mary, Margarette.

PETRUK, MIKE AND ROSIE

Mike is the youngest son of Alex and Sophie Petruk. He was born January 1, 1920 on the family homestead, where he and his wife are presently living. Mike and Rosie have two sons, Ronald and Larry.

Ronald Petruk, oldest son of Mike and Rosie Petruk, married Eyvonne Peterson on November 16, 1974. They lived in Edmonton after they were married, then in Vermilion and in Vegreville, as Ron had several transfers in his ten years with the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce.

They moved back to the Lac Bellevue district in 1978, and built a house one mile from the original Alex Petruk homestead.

Ron is the manager of the Vermilion Savings and Credit Union, Elk Point branch, and Eyvonne is the Administration Officer at the Elk Point Branch, Toronto Dominion Bank. Ron and Eyvonne also hobby-farm their $\frac{1}{4}$ -section, one mile west of the Lac Bellevue Community Hall. Ron is a great fisherman and hunter.

They have one son, David Ronald, born July 31, 1978.



Ron, David and Evon Petruk, 1980.



Mike and Rosie Petruk, 1963 —
at their original homestead.

Larry Petruk, second son of Mike and Rosie Petruk, married Sherry Brown on July 12, 1975. They live in Edmonton, and Larry is a ten-year veteran of the Edmonton Police Force. He has spent most of those ten years in the Patrol Division, but has also worked in Communications, and Central Registry. Sherry keeps busy at home with their two sons, Derek Gordon (born May 31, 1978) and Matthew Scott (born February 2, 1980). Larry spends most of his days off at the home-place where he really enjoys helping out his folks with the farm work.

PETRUK, TOM AND JENNY

by Julia Petruk

Tom Petruk is the third son of Alex and Sophie Petruk. He and Jenny were married in 1928.

Tom and Jenny always took an active part in all recreational activities at Lac Bellevue. Jenny usually had a leading role in plays and concerts, and in several organizations in the Lac Bellevue district.

Tom and Jenny raised five children:

Steve (who passed away July 31, 1972), Jerry, Mary, Olga, and Ron.

Tom and his family farmed at Lac Bellevue from 1928 to 1968. Then they moved to Edmonton, and are still living there.



Day of daughter Mary's wedding 1957. L-R: Mrs. Shnee, Jenny Petruk, Tom Petruk, Mrs. Krissa.

THE PICARD HISTORY

by Raoul Picard

My father, Aurelius J. Picard had his roots in France. His forefathers had come to Canada in the early 18th century from the province of Picardie in northern France. When they came to this continent they were called Destroismaisons and seeing how they came from Picardie the name was shortened to Picard.

Aurelius Picard was born in eastern Canada in 1867, was educated there and earned a degree at the Laval University. At the time, jobs were scarce and wages low so he decided to cross the border to Lewiston, Maine. He worked for the Great West Life Insurance Co., married, and raised a family of six boys and one girl. When the two youngest boys were still small he lost his first wife. He remarried in 1910.



Picards' Steam engine used for their sawmill taken 1934. Dennis Bergeron engineer Paul Tymko from St. Lina was sawyer.

There was talk of war, so he decided to move back to Canada particularly Alberta where he could get a homestead for \$10. He wasn't a farmer but he figured that rural life was a good place to raise a family. I was five years old when my dad decided to make this move to Canada. My godfather was a self-made millionaire and he gave me a hundred dollars before I left. I had very little contact with my godfather after that but I do know that he built an old age home where he and some other relatives resided for the rest of their lives.

In 1911, my father moved to western Canada where his first stop was Vegreville on February 10th. My father proceeded to take out a homestead on the N.E. of 22-57 Range 9 approximately 5 miles from St. Paul. There was limited choice of land so we took what we could get. The Tremblay family homesteaded across the fence from us.

The mission in St. Paul sold us the lumber to build our first house. In 1912, Aurelius Picard took on the job of collecting monies for the International Harvester Co. One day he was sent to Mallaig to collect from a farmer. As he handed him a ten dollar bill he mentioned that he had no money left to feed his family with. My dad refused it and lost his job on account of that. He then worked in Edmond Brosseau's store which at that time was located where the old Co-op store is today. He worked there until the year he died in 1924 at the age of 57. My brother also passed away two weeks before my father died.

My only sister Marianne worked in Edmonton and hardly ever came home. She married Alonzo Marcoux before dad passed away and lived in St. Edouard for many years. By that time, three of my brothers were working and living in Edmonton. Joe and Willie were both steam engineers with Joe working at the General Hospital for many years. Jean-Baptiste was an electrician. He was the one who installed the elevator in the old St. Therese Hospital in St. Paul. In 1960 he died in an elevator accident at the age of 62.

With the rest of the family gone from home, Emile and I were the only ones left to do the

farming. We were very fortunate to have a good stepmother to look after us. To supplement our income we both trapped muskrats which were plentiful and hunted wild game for food.

Good work horses were essential to farming. I took a job breaking in wild horses for Joe Brosseau. The work was hard and dangerous but also very gratifying when I became the proud owner of a beautiful team of horses.

A year later I worked in town for Elise Mailloux in his blacksmith shop. I learned the trade from the bottom up. It came in very handy to do repairs around the farm. Many of my neighbors would come to the shop to have work done. The Roy brothers who live east of our place came often.

In the fall of 1923, we bought a threshing machine and did the threshing for many farmers in the area: the Huntleys, the Hardens, Nieberdings and also Pete Tally who had been here since 1913. Later in 1927 and 1928 several newcomers settled in the area: Thobens, Willers, Saegers, Siemers and Lanfermans. These were hard times and we often interchanged labor in order to save the crops and just survive.

In July 1928, a widower by the name of Boivin moved on the Lee farm (which Thoben owns today) with seven daughters. This is where I was to meet my future bride when pretending to be out looking for stray horses. I married Irene in 1931 in the new church in St. Paul.

That same year I purchased the old Garneau sawmill from the Western Trust Co. in Edmonton for \$70 which was considered a lot of money at that time. In 1932 my brother Emile and I were sawing lumber on Moose Hill. That September our first daughter was born. In 1933 we moved the mill 10 miles north of Goodridge on a new timber limit. We worked hard and kept going through -50° weather. Dennis Bergeron was my first engineer and Joe Cote ran the steamer that I had bought that fall from Harry Leaf of Dewberry. Alex Schulmaster was my spare sawyer and Paul Tymko was tail sawyer along with Tony Roy.



Elise Tremblay standing by woodsplitter right is J.B. Picard, Raoul Picard's brother, taken 1932.



Late 1930's Left: Emile Picard, Joe Picard, Marie Ange (Mrs. Alonza Marcoux) Raoul Picard, Jean Baptist Picard. One missing on picture is Willie Picard.

One million feet of lumber was coming out of the bush each winter. I ran the mill for 7 years until it burned down and had to be rebuilt. All the lumber hauling was done by horses.

In 1942 I hired help and Emile ran the farm. I went to McBride, B.C. and worked in a sawmill there as a steam engineer and millwright. By that time I had acquired my papers. I worked there for 13 months then came home for good.

I rented the Alphonse Brosseau land where the St. Paul Regional High School now stands and produced yearly bumper crops of oats and barley. I also started ranching with purebred herefords therefore producing mostly hay and grain on the farm.

By 1948 we had four daughters and with their help while not in school, we milked a few cows. It was a lot of work but provided us with a good income. The girls are all married with two of them living on Vancouver Island and the other two living in Edmonton. We also have four grandchildren, two boys and two girls.

We sold the farm in 1968 and built a house on an acreage about a mile away. We live a quiet life and look forward to visits from our children. We now have a lot of time to do some gardening and bird watching.

JOE AND LUCIENNE (DÉSAULNIERS) PIGEAU FAMILY

written by Jeannette Théroux

Joe Pigeau was born February 22, 1913 and married Lucienne Désaulniers born December 1, 1915, on October 21, 1937. In 1940, Joe and Lucienne

lived 3½ miles east of Lafond in a three bedroom log house. The barn was also made of logs surrounded by pole corrals. Farming was done with horse drawn plows and discs.

Wild meat was readily available. Partridges were snared easily. Bullets were expensive and only used for bigger game, hunted mostly in winter. Joe recalls that rabbits were plentiful when he was young. When he was eleven years old, he had snared 320 rabbits which sold for .11¢ a hide. He also remembers that from money earned when he was 16 years old, he had bought his first suit of clothes, for \$1.00.

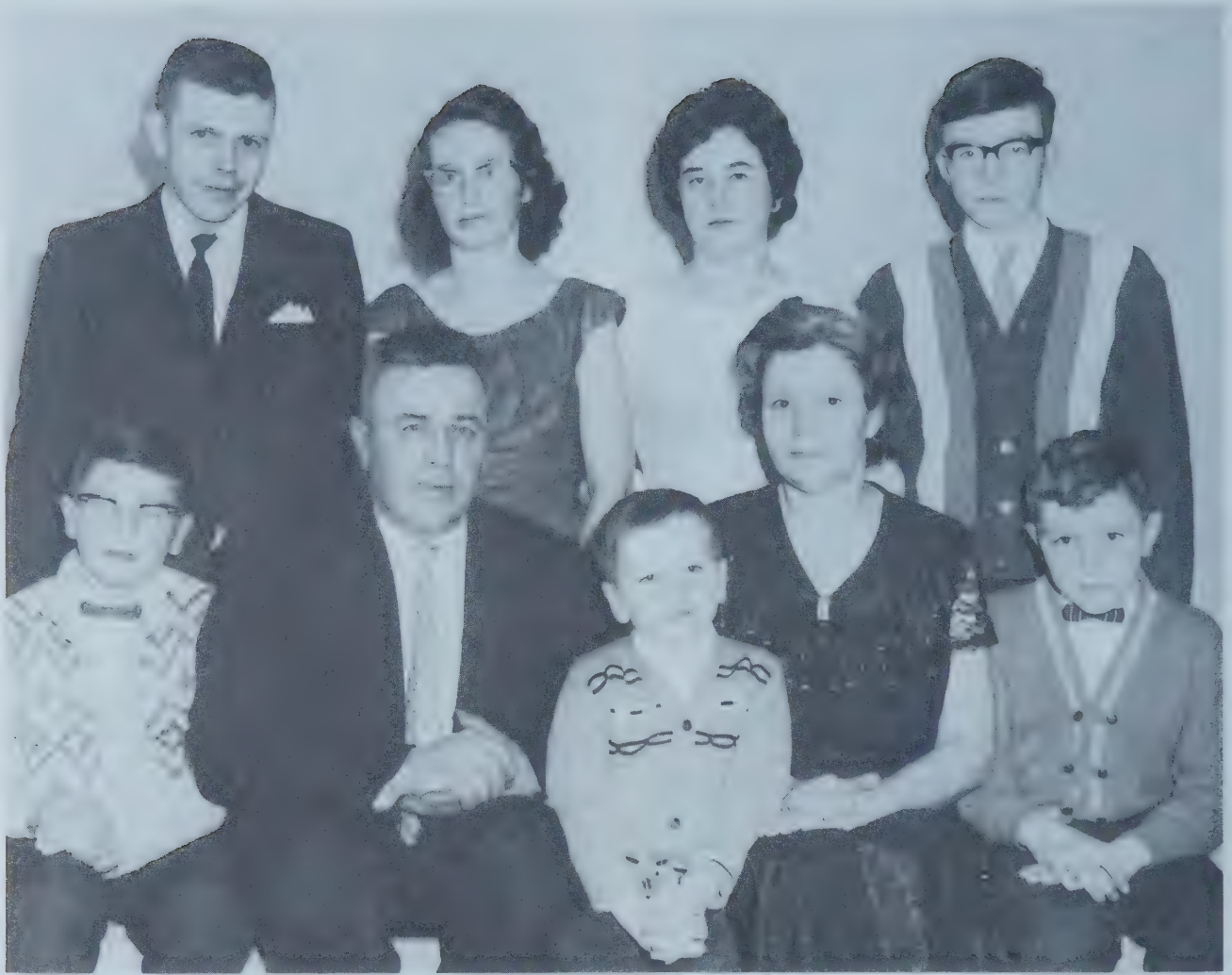
During the depression, farmers were luckier than many other people, as they always had enough food, which they produced such as bread, milk, and butter. They grew their own vegetables, raised their own meat such as chickens, pigs and either butchered a beef or got some wild meat, deer or rabbit. Fish was quite readily available also. The sale of produce was a real shame: eggs at three cents a dozen, five gallons of cream for \$2.50, cows at three dollars, and pigs at two cents a pound. You worked cutting three big loads of firewood for three meals and fifty cents. Home remedies that really worked were used by everyone as doctors and hospitals were far away and expensive.

They had mail every two weeks. When you ordered through catalogues, Eaton's, Sears or Army and Navy, it would take about two weeks to a month to come back. The education of the children in those days You went to school when and if you wanted to.

In those days when there was a wedding, everybody was invited. It was a big feast, held usually at the groom's parents' home. Parties were also held in the homes. You couldn't afford to have any trouble. Anything that was done, they passed the hat around for expenses. They were dancing in mocassins. In winter a horse drawn caboose was the best transportation. It usually had a wood burning heater to keep us warm. Everybody looked forward to these parties and weddings.

Everyone wore home-made clothes — two outfits: one for the week and one for Sundays. The children had their own chores, like getting the cows and milking, feeding pigs and general farm work. They played softball whenever time was available which wasn't very often.

We were happy living in the district. You knew your neighbors at all times and if you were in trouble, you had a lot of help. When you were working, it was like a team. There was never any charge for helping your neighbor. It could be 50° below zero and you wouldn't think twice about going out to help. Everybody was happy. You always had time to stop and chat with your friends. You'd stop your team and sit and chat along the road wherever you met.



The Joseph Pigeau Family: Back row: Laurent, Lorraine (Mrs. Wilfred Smith); Irene (Mrs. Edmond Kriaski); and Leo. Front row: Ernest, Joe Pigeau, Victor, Lucienne Pigeau, and Marcel.

Joe and Lucienne had seven children all born in St. Paul.

Lorraine married Wilfred Smith. They have five children. They all live in Grande Prairie, Alberta. Laurent is single. He works and lives in Kamloops, B.C. area.

Irene married Edmond Kriaski and they have five children. Colleen, Johanne, Carmen, twins Kim and Kelly both deceased. The family lives in Grande Prairie, Alberta.

Leo married Nellie Hammel. They live in Grande Prairie, Alberta with their four daughters.

Ernest is single and lives in Grande Prairie, Alberta.

Marcel married Barbara Miller. They live in Grande Prairie, Alberta with their two young sons.

Victor married Helen Cuthbertson. They have two children, Ian and Veronica. They live in Grande Prairie, Alberta.

THE PIGEON DYNASTY AT BROSSEAU, ALBERTA

Surrounded as we are by countless amenities, luxuries, and conveniences, it becomes increasingly difficult to fully appreciate the contributions and sacrifices of our forefathers. We reverence the memory of all those who planted our roots in this bountiful land nearly a century ago.

On the fourth day of May 1892, Ernest Pigeon was born near St. Sophie, Conté de Terrebonne, in the Province of Quebec, where he lived for fifteen years. News of vast frontier spread through his district. Ernest and his cousin, Eugene Lafortune challenged each other to set out and conquer the Western frontier. So it came to pass, in 1908 Ernest and his cousin Eugene found themselves in Alberta after a long train ride. Once having paid the fare on the stagecoach from Vegreville to St. Paul des Metis, Ernest's fortune at the time amounted to twenty-five cents.



L-R: Two sisters, taken in 1918, Lucienne (Belland) Pigeon 14 years old, Martine (Belland) Gill, 20 years old.

During the first year, Ernest travelled from St. Albert to St. Paul doing various jobs. When the first homesteads were offered in 1909, Ernest acquired a quarter section of land near Lafond about seven miles from St. Paul.



The Pigeon Family L-R: Front row: Antoinette, Lucienne (mother), Ernest (father), Yolande. Back row: Marie-Ange, Pascal, Germaine, Joe, Rita, taken in 1962.

By 1918, Ernest opened enough land, erected a humble home, and established a viable farming operation. Having endured all the natural hardships, the Province of Alberta was nearly devastated by an influenza epidemic which he, unlike countless others, was fortunate enough to survive.

Lucienne Belland, born on the fifth day of May, 1904, at Calumet Island P.Q., vividly recalls boarding a train in Ottawa as a young child to come west. The five-day non-stop train ride to Vegreville, eating box lunches and sleeping as best they could in their seats, was only slightly more comfortable than the twelve hour ride by motorized coach from Vegreville to St. Paul des Metis. Lucienne arrived here in 1913, one year after Edward, her father, had left home to go West and prepare for his family to follow.



Ernie Gamache, husband of Rose Belland, and Yvonne (Belland) Lafortune, taken in 1950. Rose Gamache died in Edmonton 1960, buried in St. Paul. Ernie Gamache died and was buried in Yellowknife in 1974. Yvonne (Lafortune) Dagenais died and was buried in St. Paul in January 1979.

By 1918, again at the height of the influenza epidemic, which Lucienne especially recalls, it was difficult for her employer, Doctor Gagnon, who worked so hard during the crisis. She was earning ten dollars per month as a housekeeper. While such earnings seem marginal by comparison to our standards, it is interesting to note that at that time women's coats sold for two dollars and a dress could be bought for only two dollars and fifty cents.

On July 28, 1919, Father Tessier officiated at a ceremony joining Lucienne and Ernest in wedlock. The young bride's wedding gown (see picture) was purchased for four dollars and fifty cents. During the festivities that followed some recall purchasing twelve ounces of "Moonshine" for fifty cents to help celebrate the event.

Ernest and his cousin Eugene owned and operated a livery stable in St. Paul while still attending to their respective farms until 1926. Horses were rapidly being replaced by motor cars, and the stable was no longer viable.

Ernest and Lucienne lived on their farm until 1959 when they moved to St. Paul. During their years on the farm they managed to raise seven children:

Joseph of Lafond, Alberta

Germaine (Ayotte) — deceased

Rita (Robinson) of Edmonton, Alberta

Marie-Ange (Chamberland) of St. Paul, Alberta

Yolande (Dubois) of St. Paul, Alberta

Antoinette (Gratton) of St. Paul, Alberta

Lucienne retired to Heritage Homes in St. Paul in 1978 following the death of her husband Ernest in 1973. She passed away on June 12, 1981.

JOE AND CECILE (THÉROUX) PIGEON

as told by Joe Pigeon

Joe was born July 7, 1920, in Lafond, the oldest child of Ernest Pigeon and Lucienne Belland. He attended Cartier School for eight years, then worked on the farm helping his father.

In 1940, he joined the army and returned after the war, in 1946, one of the lucky ones, who wasn't injured.

Joe then worked in B.C. and the N.W.T. from 1946 to 1956, at which time he returned to the farm that he had bought from his father, in 1955.

His parents lived with him until he was married on January 10, 1959 to Cecile Theroux, daughter of Joseph Theroux and Bernadette Ouellette, from Duvernay, Alberta, whom he had met in previous years.

Cecile and Joe farmed until June 26, 1961. Then they moved to Edmonton, where Joe worked at the Federal Building for 2 years apprenticing under Payment Gagnon. He also took night school and got his papers as a Steam Engineer. Joe then worked for 19 years on construction for Canadian Bechtel, mostly in Fort McMurray. Cecile worked at the Royal Alexandra Hospital for over twelve years.



Joe and Cecile Pigeon Taken in 1975.

Joe and Cecile bought an acreage in Lafond and moved their mobile home onto it, in May, 1978. Cecile is now employed at Sunnyside Manor as a Housekeeping Aide. Joe works part-time for Noel and Blanchette. In the summer, both are very busy watering and mowing lawns, hoeing the garden, and planting trees to beautify their grounds. That will be a source of great pleasure to them, when they retire.

PIOTROWSKY, RUDOLPH AND FAMILY

by Annie (Piotrowsky) Zacharuck



Wedding of Rudolf and Takla Piotrowsky — 1916.

Dad was born in Poland, on January 1, 1888. As a young man, he emigrated to the United States with his brother, leaving his family behind. In 1916, he married Takla Tatarn in Buffalo, New York. He worked at various jobs, one of which was at a



House built in 1930. Wedding of Steve and Olga Demchuk. From L-R: Helen Demchuk, Annie Krankowsky, Mary Krankowsky, Stella, Mike Trach, Bill Wirsta, Olga and Steve, Jean, Charlie Krankowsky, Annie and Fred Zacharuk. Behind: Bill Krankowsky, Nick Zacharuk holding Eddie Zacharuk.

sunflower oil extraction plant in New York. Dad and mom, along with their first three children — Walter, Stella and Helen — came to Canada and settled in the Stoney Lake area in 1922. Mom's sister, Annie, married to Demetro Wirsta, lived here.

Dad bought a quarter of land from Mike Petrowsky; the land location was S.E. 22-56-8-W4. This was one mile west of Siler Lake (Stoney Lake), named after one of the first settlers of that area.

My parents' first house, a one-room shack, was built from logs that were cut down as my dad cleared the land for cultivation. The logs were hewed, placed on one another, and plastered with mud. The roof was made from rails and covered with sod.

Land was cleared by axe and grub-hoe; trees and limbs were piled by hand, and burned after they had dried. The land was broken by walking-plow and horses.

Times were hard. A large garden was always planted and, since we were so near the lake, we always had plenty of fish.



Family picture 1963 — Walter, Helen, Rudolph, Annie, Edward, Takla, Jean, Stella, Sophie, Olga, missing William.

It was here in the one-room shack that the remaining six children were born: myself Annie, Jean, Olga, Sophie, Edward, and Bill. Even in this cramped residence, we had many memorable joy-filled times. This was especially true at Christmas when the traditional hay was brought into the house. This was the only time we had a special treat such as dried fruit, hazel nuts and other scarce goodies.

In 1930, it was a blessing when Dad was able to construct a large five-room house which also had an attic to be used in emergencies when friends stayed over. This same house, made from logs and plaster, and much later drop siding, still stands today.

As things got better, more land was purchased in the area. I recall a tragic loss of two of our work horses. Near the house were two large trees, under which the horses had taken refuge from a raging



Rudolph and Takla on their Golden Wedding Anniversary. Veronica Demchuk of left, Mike Drobot Sr. on right, Ed Boratynec at the mike.

thunderstorm. A bolt of lightning struck the trees, killing the horses instantly. This was especially tragic, since just prior to this we had lost one other horse, leaving us now with only two. Most of our machinery was drawn by three or four horses.

Tragedy struck again when, in 1935, a devastating hailstorm passed through the area, completely destroying all crops and damaging buildings — signs of this storm can still be seen on the house today.

Picnics at Lake Eliza Hall were a pleasure to attend. We'd hitch the team of horses to the wagon, pack our lunch boxes, and set out to enjoy the gatherings with friends and neighbors.

Dad and mom lived and prospered on this land until their retirement in 1960. They purchased a home in Elk Point, where they lived to enjoy their senior years. Mother died in June 1970. Dad continued to live in Elk Point for a few more years and then moved into Sunnyside Manor in St. Paul. He passed away in 1977 at the age of eighty-nine.

Most of their children reside in the Stoney Lake and surrounding area. Walter still farms the Piotrowsky land. He married Mary Shayka of Elk Point in 1973.

Stella, (who passed away in 1975), married Mike Trach of Clandonald in 1937. They have eight children: Annie, Eddie, Archie, Harry, Jean, Lawrence, Kenny, and Gloria.

Helen married Mike Trach of Lac Bellevue in 1940. They have two daughters: Elsie and Florence.

I married Fred Zacharuk of Lac Bellevue in 1940, sharing a double wedding ceremony with my sister Helen. Fred and I have three children: Eddie, Lawrence, and Florence.

Jean married Carl Zarowny of Elk Point in 1945. Their four children are: Donald, Jerry, Kenny, and Susan.

Olga married Steve Y. Demchuk from Lake Eliza in 1945. They have four children: Donald, Marion, Kenneth, and Ronald.

Sophie married Pete Boyko of Elk Point in 1948. Their children are Lucille, Mary Ann, and Orest.

Edward married Annie Shankowsky of Elk Point in 1953. Ronald, Gloria, and Eugene are their children.

William lives in Salmon Arm, British Columbia. His children are Mary Ann and Jo Ann.

At present, the Piotrowsky family consists of twenty-nine grandchildren and forty-one great grandchildren.

FRANK AND MARY PODLOSKI

by the family

While residing and pioneering in Stry, Alberta, Frank and Mary Podloski, purchased a farm in the fall of 1945 in the St. Brides area. This farm was considered a co-operative farm, which Dan Gamache owned.

In the spring of 1946, Frank and Mary moved to their new settlement and started a mixed farm. At this point Frank was not mechanically established for farming, therefore all field work was done by horse and man labour.

It was not until 1950 that Frank purchased a tractor and was considered a more modernized farmer, relieving all pioneering labours.

Winter winds were eased by the firewood that was cut in the winter, sawed in the spring and piled in the summer. This firewood was considered the source of heating for the home.

Realizing there were no funds for a community hall, Frank offered his barn for social gatherings and entertainment. From these gatherings, funds were raised to start the project of building the now standing Cork Hall. Thereafter Frank was a member to the hall for many, many years. Frank contributed his musical talents by playing a violin in an orchestra throughout the community and surrounding area for numerous occasions.

Frank made extra money by serving the St. Paul Municipality as pound keeper, which at certain times proved to be a difficult task.

During their trials and tribulations of their farming years, Frank and Mary raised six children, Ann, Edward, Olga, Eleanor, Connie and Lillian. Edward deceased in November of 1964. Mary was pre-deceased by her son Edward in March of 1970.

Frank sold the farm in the fall of 1972, and moved to Edmonton where he is retiring.

Edward (deceased) had married Rose Marie Doucet in April of 1959. They had two sons, Larry and Randy.

Ann married John Brodziak in 1947. They have two sons, Ronald and Kenneth. They moved to St. Paul in 1973, and retired after farming in the St. Brides community for many years.

Olga married Eric Sirois in October of 1956. They settled in Edmonton and have two daughters, Elizabeth and Anita.

Eleanor married Alex Bilokrely in November of 1964. They lived in Toronto for 3 years and moved to Banff. After operating a business, and selling it, they moved to B.C. where they lived for 6 years. Now they are settled in St. Paul.

Connie married Carol Tennent in June of 1962. They settled in Leduc, have two daughters, Susan and Diane.

Lillian married John S. Gogowich in October of 1968, and have one daughter Diane. Moved to St. Lina and farmed, before settling in St. Paul.



Frank and Mary Podloski



Mr. and Mrs. Frank Podloski's family picture taken in 1968 on Frank's 60th birthday. Back row: Connie Podloski, Ronald Brodziak, John Brodziak, Lillian Podloski, Eric Sirois, Alex Bilokrely. Seated: Carol Podloski and daughter Dianne, Ann Brodziak, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Podloski, Olga Sirois, Eleanor Bilokrely. Front row: Susan Podloski, Kenny Brodziak, Randy and Larry Podloski, Elizabeth Sirois.

MICHAEL (MIKE) PODLOSKY

Micheal Podlosky, son of Adam Podlosky and Anna Matclef, born in Poland September 16, 1897. At the age of five, he emigrated to Canada, where his family settled in Round Hill district for a few years. They then made another move to the Flat Lake area, where they homesteaded till I was 16 years old.



Mike and Jenny Podlosky, taken in Mundare in 1937.

Mike then ventured to seek employment on his own, finding employment on a farm. There he was given the opportunity to learn how to operate a steam engine which he worked at for a few years. Then he worked for C.N.R. as a section foreman for 10 years.

Mike then decided that drilling water wells would make him a better living. He drilled a well for Mr. Anton Brodziak, who had three lovely daughters. He married the oldest daughter Jeannine. The marriage took place May 3, 1937. A daughter was born, but deceased at the age of two months.

Mike had a son by a previous marriage named Frank, age 15 years. He was helping Mr. Brodziak on the farm who at the time had moved from Mundare to St. Brides.

Leaving the well drilling, Mike and Jeannine moved to St. Brides. He then bought a truck. During his stay in St. Brides, he hauled cream, grain, farmed and did carpenter work. Also was involved in the organization of constructing Cork Hall.

In 1942, his son Frank enlisted in the army, where he served for four years. Then Mike and



Mike and Jenny Podlosky, Silver Anniversary in 1962.

Jeannine moved to Sault Ste Marie, Ontario, where he worked in the Steel Plant till 1944. Due to illness, Mike was advised by the doctor to move back to Alberta.

Back to St. Brides he came and rented Bill Kuz's farms for four years. Upon his discharge Frank came back to St. Brides to help on the farm.

Mike, on leaving the farm built a confectionary in Ashmont, and operated it for 14 years. Frank ventured to St. Paul, found employment, married Eva Letourneau June 20, 1950, where he made his home. They have four sons.

Maurice — married Linda Fowler, lives in Sherwood Park.

Marcel — married Janet Shebivski, lives in St. Albert.

Micheal and Gerald live in Edmonton.

Frank and Eva continue to live in St. Paul.

Mike, on selling out in Ashmont, moved to St. Brides, purchasing the store from Mr. Bill Looy. Mike and Jeannine operated the store for eleven years. Due to illness he was forced to sell, moved to St. Paul where he retired till his death at the age of 82. Jeannine continues to live in St. Paul.

THOMAS PODLUBNY FAMILY

by Tillie Tanasichuk

Thomas Podlubny was born, in Poland, on Feb. 2, 1886. He arrived in Canada in 1912. In 1913, he married Anastasia Chomlak. She was born in the Ukraine on April 11, 1889.

They settled in the Lac Eliza district in 1913. They raised a family of seven children upon settling in the district. Tom, as he was known, became involved in many activities in the district. Along with T.C. Ashworth, they were responsible for organizing and building the first school (Lake Eliza). He was also responsible for opening the district roads.

In 1924, he moved his family to Manville district where he farmed till his retirement in 1943, and then moved to Edmonton.

Thomas passed away on April 4, 1959 and his wife passed away April 4, 1976.

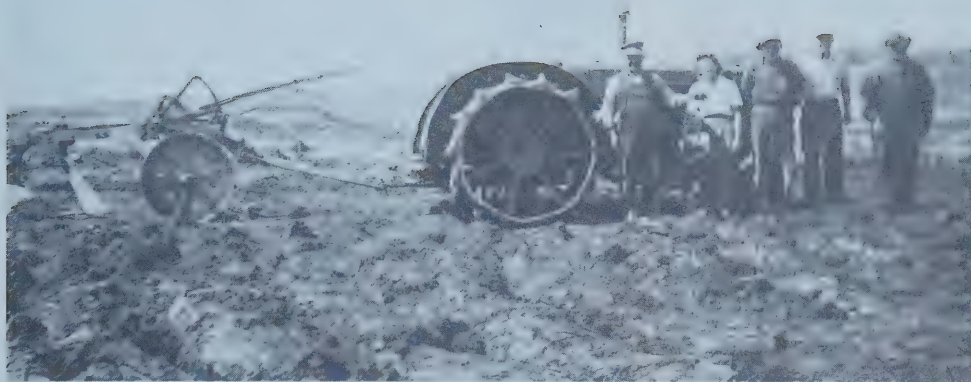


Thomas and Anastasia Podlubny during their retirement years.

PALIOWODA, JOHN P.

John Paul Paliwoda was born in Baycowce, Poland, on December 26, 1907, to Nick and Angela (Kozol) Paliwoda. He was the only boy in a family of four children.

He emigrated to Canada in late March 1930. He came to join his brother-in-law, Peter Yankowski, who was employed by the Ashworth brothers. Mr. Paliwoda journeyed by ship and then by train as far as Myrnam. He went to Chmyliar's store, where he had supper and found a ride. Metro Maksymiuk was going home by cutter to his farm on the south side of the North Saskatchewan River. The river



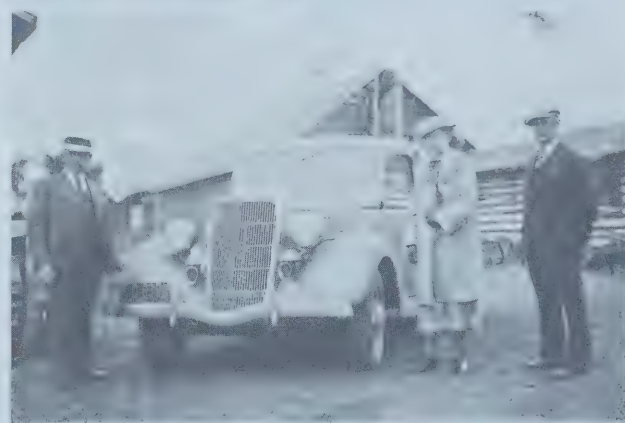
Breaking land at Ashworth's 1943 — L-R: T.C. Ashworth, Anne Krankowsky, Charlie Krankowsky, 2 unidentified.

was near break-up, so Mr. Paliwoda got his feet wet while making the crossing. Tired and discouraged, he made his way to George Fodchuk's house, where a cup of coffee and dry feet brightened his spirits. Then he walked the rest of the way to the Ashworth farm.

After a short stay, John found employment at Clement Marty's farm south of the river. Here he earned thirty dollars per month. This was considered a very good wage at that time.

The following year, Mr. Paliwoda went to work for the Ashworth family as a laborer on their large mixed farm. He remembers the partridges and prairie chickens were so tame around the winter feed lots that they could easily be killed by throwing a rock at them. His starting wage was \$20 per month, with only \$8 for the winter months. This was later raised to \$25 per month and \$10 for the winter months. He worked here for nine years, until he had \$2300 saved up to set up his own farm. He considered himself very lucky to have a steady job because many people were on relief at this time.

In the spring of 1941, he purchased N $\frac{1}{2}$ 31-55-8-W4 from Henry Totosky. He started farming with a



Ashworth's place, going to Myrnam Sports Day, July 7, 1934. L-R: T.C. Ashworth, Gertrude Ashworth, John Paliwoda.

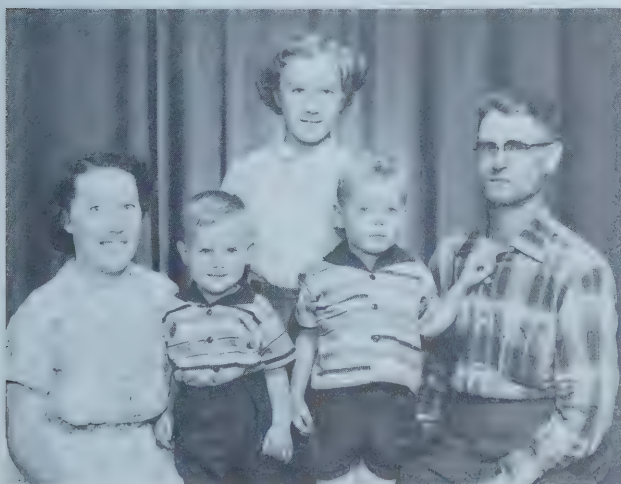
sixteen run seed drill, two bottom gang plows, a disk, and harrows. These were pulled by five horses.

In July 1944, he married Annie Tymofichuk, daughter of Peter and Helen Tymofichuk. The wedding was held at the Tymofichuk homestead, where an open-air platform was built for dancing. Liquor was rationed, allowing a case of beer and a bottle of whiskey per person per month. A truckload of people would go in to get the liquor, and then it was supplemented with homemade brew.

Tony Krankowsky was one of the first people in the neighborhood with a truck. When he went to town, it was often packed with people who needed a ride.

On May 23, 1945, Gloria Paliwoda was born. She attended Lake Eliza School to the end of Grade Six, when it was closed down. She then transferred to Elk Point, where she graduated in 1963. On October 26 that year, she married Kenneth Yettaw from Foisy.

Glen John Paliwoda was born on June 5, 1954, and Jim George was born on November 17, 1955. They attended Elk Point School until 1969, when they transferred to St. Paul Regional School to finish their education.



The John Paliwoda Family. Front row L-R: Anne, Jim, Glen, and John. Back row: Gloria — 1958.



Harvest at Ashworth's — 1936 — L-R: John Paliwoda, Gem Ashworth on binder, Mike Zazaluk, Mike Straty on other binder. Brother-in-law Peter Yankowski.

Glen married Donna Lakusta of St. Paul on October 11, 1980. He is a qualified heavy-duty mechanic, and is presently employed by Zarowny Motors in St. Paul.

Jim also lives in St. Paul. From there, he goes out to work on oil rigs in various locations throughout the province.

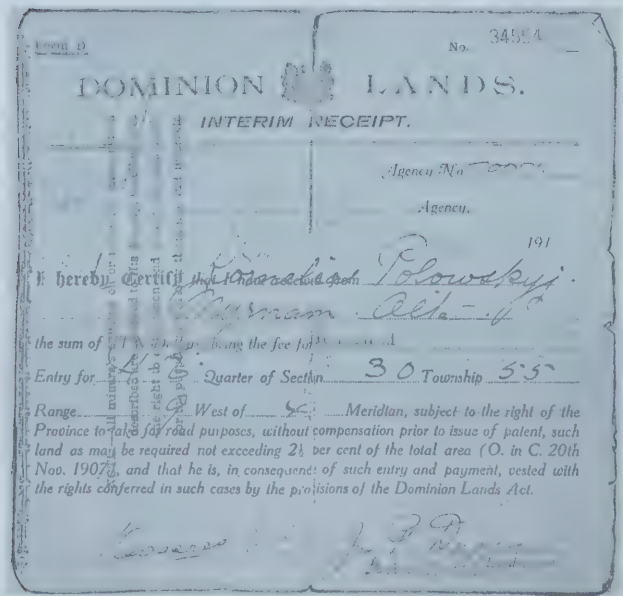
Annie Paliwoda passed away on December 28, 1961. John continued to farm alone until the children were old enough to leave home. He then sold the farm to John and Anne Harris in 1975, and retired in St. Paul.

KORNELIUS POLOWSKY

by Eskow family

Born October 2, 1884 — May 15th, 1953. Birthplace — Probuzna, Husiatyn, Galicia, Poland.

In 1907, Kornelius Polowsky arrived in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania with his wife Paulina (Sereda).



Dominion Lands Interim Receipt.



Kornelius and Paulina Poloway — 1945.

He worked in the coal mines for two years. Their first born Stefka (Eskow) was born here in April, 1909.

Shortly thereafter, they came to Calgary, where they stayed for another two years. Their second daughter Agnes (Krill) was born here.

Work was found in a coal mine near Drumheller, so it was here that they lived for six years before moving to Lac Bellevue with their two daughters and newborn Ann (Mizier.)

A homestead was purchased February 18, 1915 for ten dollars at N.E. ¼ section 30-55-9-W4th, Lac Bellevue. The homestead was farmed until 1940 when they moved to Foisy, Alberta.

They stayed here for 15 years and then moved to Lamont, where they operated a General Store for 4 years.

Kornelius retired in Edmonton in 1952. Children born at Lac Bellevue: Marie (Smith), Kay (Mandrusiak), Walter Poloway, Steve Poloway, Joe Poloway.

THE POPOWICH FAMILY

by a grand daughter, Stephania Arychuk

Wasyl and Raifta Popowich (nee Eluik) arrived in Canada on the ship Bremen together with six daughters: Anetsa, Erena, Veronica, Mary, Erena and Wasyl Junior. A cousin of grandpa's, Domka Popowich came along too. They left their homeland of Cherniwtsi, Bukovina, Austria on April the 8th and reached Vegreville on May the 5th of 1913, where they were picked up by John Pundick and brought to the farm about six miles south of Lafond, a distance of fifty miles or more from Vegreville.

Grandpa Wasyl had been in Canada for three years before bringing out his wife and family. During this time, he had cleared twenty acres of land which was ready for seeding and built a granary. He also had logs ready for more buildings.

When the family arrived at the farm, a window was sawed out in the granary. Thin logs of poplar were laid down on the floor and then covered with hay. The floor also served as a bed for a week. The floor was then plastered which made it a lot easier to keep clean and maneuver on.

Their stove was a heater with one burner. For baking, an outdoor oven was built which turned out the most delicious bread.



Alex and Erena Taschuk on their 40th Wedding Anniversary with their daughter Ruth and husband John. Stephania and husband Trifon.



The six daughters of Wasyl and Raifta Popowich 1967. Youngest to the oldest Anelsa Wertypora, Erena Taschuk, Veronica Zawalusky, Mary Bereska, Elena Popowich, Ruth Popowich.



Trifon and Stephania Arychuk
Family in 1946. Kenneth,
Walter, Trifon, Olga, Gerald,
Stephania, Mabel.

In those days, bread and other flour products were the mainstay of the diet. Grandpa bought a cow for a steady supply of milk and cheese. Kind neighbors brought potatoes. The children shot partridges, snared rabbits, picked fresh mushrooms and wild berries, such as strawberries, saskatoons and cranberries. The fruit were also made into jam but sugar was a luxury and the jam only kept for a month or so. That fall, the wheat, oats and barley yielded well and escaped the frost. Part of the garden was damaged by frost quite badly. The work on the farm was done by a pair of oxen except for the reaping. This was done with a binder, by the Triska family. The bundles were stacked after the stooks were dry and were threshed by a Foisy family.

Threshing from stacks could be done even after the snow came. The grain was hauled by oxen team to Vegreville.

During the summer a two-room house and a barn were built with the logs that had been hewed down before grandpa went back to the Old Country to get the family. The stove in their new house had sides made of clay and the top and doors were made of cast, which was brought from their previous home in Bukovina.

The harness for the oxen was bought in Winnipeg on their way over. The log house was plastered and the roof was covered with hay.

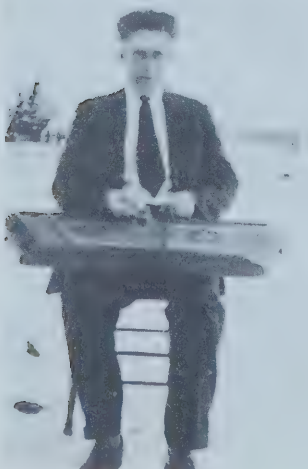
Before fall, two more cows were bought and that meant no shortage of milk and cheese.

After selling the grain, the main purchase was sixteen rolls of wire and ten bags of flour. One bag of flour was enough for three batches of bread.

During the winter, my mother, Erena Popowich, worked as cook for a sawmill outfit which was owned by Albert and Astor Brunelle, for five dollars a month. The bunkhouse was very cold. Even in the daytime, having cold feet was normal.

After a short courtship my mother married Alex Taschuk, son of Nekolai and Erena Taschuk (nee Malofie) on August 5th, in 1914.

Grandma Popowich had the most unique way of making out her shopping list since she could neither read nor write, in either Ukrainian or English. Her list was made up of symbols and a language all her own which served the purpose well.



Trifon playing the dulcimer.

Other shoppers would peer over the shoulder and wonder what the symbols on her list meant. To her, they meant not forgetting to buy the necessary items, hence the saying, necessity is the best teacher.

Grandpa Popowich passed away in 1938. Grandma Popowich passed away in 1943.

In 1902, grandparents Nekilai and Erena Tashchuk (nee Malofie) along with their two sons, Peter aged eleven and Alex eight, sold their worldly goods in Cherniwtsi, Bukovina, Austria, and set out for Canada. They settled on a homestead in the Vastew District, south of Bellis. At the time, the land was not surveyed. After three years and the surveying done, grandpa found out that what he thought was his quarter, was mostly his neighbor's.

The family then moved to the Brosseau District and settled on a homestead about four miles east of the present Brosseau Post-office.

Their first home was called a Burdey. The back of the building was dug into a hill. A log was hung on top as the middle of the roof. Then poles were placed against it and the other end rested on the ground. Thus the roof and walls were one, at a slant. This was plastered and covered with sod.

The next summer, they built a two-room log house. The entrance was a sort of storage room and the next was the living quarters. The roof was thatched. Rye sheaves were best for this. An opening was left for the smoke to escape.

The main dwelling had two windows and a door facing south. The most important necessity was the indoor oven and stove, built in one. This was constructed out of a very thick mixture of clay, straw and water on a frame. The top of the oven was flat and was used as a bed and what a warm one that was, as once a fire had been built in it, it stayed warm for a long time. The top of the stove which was called a Shparhat, had a cast door and top and a door for putting in the wood.

There was a wooden bed, a wooden table, a couple of long benches and a couple of oblong stools.

The ceiling had hanging beams which served as storage for herbs, seeds and dried mushrooms.

The walls were plastered and whitewashed. The floor was plastered too and before sweeping, had to be sprinkled with water to keep the dust down.

A large oblong dish for kneading the bread, was dug out of a huge poplar log.

The ground at the front of the house was very even which resembled today's patios. This was used for threshing out the beans, peas, and hemp seeds.

The dried legumes were a very important item of food and the hemp seed was grown for oil which was extracted with a press.

A flail was used to beat out the seeds. This was two sticks attached by thongs of leather. The top

one swung very easily, except that there was a knack to using it, otherwise you could hit your head when swinging it.

Homes, granaries, barns, chicken coops were all built from logs and then plastered with clay and straw. The finishing coat was a mixture of special grey clay and dried horse manure. It was over this coat that whitewash was applied.

At age twelve, dad (Alex Tashchuk) went to work for a Coutu family, on the farm, in order to earn the much needed money, at five dollars a month. He learned about farming and enough French to get by.

When the Popowich family arrived from Cherniwtsi, the Tashchuk family was one of the first to welcome them.

In 1914, Alex Tashchuk asked Erena Popowich to marry him. They were married in the Vastew Church on August 5th. In September of 1917, twins were born to them — Stephen and Stephania. Only I, Stephania, survived. In 1923 another daughter, Ruth, was born to them.

The Mamaestie School was built in 1911 and dad attended night classes. He was quite fluent in the English language and good at bookkeeping.

The highlights of my growing up were school and the important parts were going shopping with my parents to Brosseau, where one had a chance to visit as well as shop. Mr. Joe Brosseau was a source of information. He had a rocking chair and would be



Grandparents Wasyl and Raifta Popowich.

rocking and talking in his friendly way. He always gave me, Stephania, a black licorice. The store was owned by Alphonse Brosseau and his clerk was Charles Callahan.

At Brosseau, the first dentist I went to was Dr. Hardy. There was no freezing while doing an extraction. He was also a doctor and prescribed the most wonderful little red pills to bring down the fever.

To the west of the ferry, on the north side of the river, lived a family named Gray. Mrs. Gray was a nurse and my mother used to see her for help with some of her health problems.

School was work as well as play. My first teacher was Miss Hand. She had a grade nine education and was seventeen years old at the time. The school was one room with a big heater which on very cold days failed to keep us comfortably warm. Summer brought hard ball games in the school yard, in which both boys and girls participated. I was a catcher on one of the teams.

Christmas Concerts were the highlight of the year for students as well as families. The excitement was tremendous on the day of the do. Decorating the school, trimming the tree and the arrival of Santa Claus after our performance were very exciting parts of this. The tree was trimmed with tinsel, ornaments and real little candles. It is a miracle that there was no fire as a result.

Grandfather Taschuk passed away in 1923, grandma Taschuk passed away in 1930. Dad, Alex Taschuk passed away in 1976.

In the fall of 1934, Trifan Arychuk asked me, Stephania to marry him. The marriage was performed in Mamaestie Church on November 21st. We lived at Kaleland with Trifon's dad, two sisters, Elsie and Mary and brother Isaac, till March of 1935. We then moved to a farm four miles east of Brosseau where we lived till April of 1942. Those were the hard times. Wheat was nineteen cents a bushel.



25th Anniversary of Trifon and Stephania Arychuk with their four children, Walter is missing.

In 1942, we moved to Beauvallon where Trifon had a Massey Harris Agency and an Imperial Oil agency. A couple of years later he became an agent for the Reliance Grain Co.

Our first four children, Olga, Mabel, Walter and Kenneth were born at Brosseau. Gerald was born in Beauvallon. The family was educated at Beauvallon and Myrnam, then on to University and Technical School. Trifon played Dolcimer with a number of orchestras during his lifetime, beginning with the dances that were held in houses and granaries. Music was something he always enjoyed.

In 1971, when Trifon retired from the grain buying business, we moved to Two Hills. On April 14th, 1979, Trifon was called to his permanent place of rest.

On November 7th of 1940, sister Ruth married John Kushniruk from Hairy Hill. They farmed there till 1962, then they moved to Edmonton. They had 8 children born to them at Hairy Hill, six boys and two girls — Terry, Ron, Iris, Gloria, Larry, Dwayne, Marshall and Randy.

In 1962, they moved to Edmonton where the older children went to University and Technical School. In 1969, with the five older children married and on their own, the rest of the family moved to Winnipeg.

In 1975, John and Ruth, with their youngest sons Marshall and Randy decided that Alberta felt more like home with most of the family and relatives being here, so they moved back.

While growing up, John along with his father and brother Steve, had an orchestra of their own consisting of violin, dolcimer, and accordion. As soon as his family started growing, the boys followed in their dad's footsteps and each one played a different instrument. They again had a large family orchestra which was very popular.

In 1971 daughter Gloria died and in 1977 John left us.

ALEX AND EVELYN POPOWICH

by Evelyn Popowich

We appreciate the privilege of being part of this publication. It is of great importance that young ones have some idea of their forebearer's origins, lifestyles and experiences. This will help them put their daily lives in better perspective. History has much more impact when names and places are familiar.

Alex, the last "Hanger" to Fred and Zenovia Popowich arrived, one miserably cold January night — 60°F, at the Willingdon Hospital, with everyone scurrying about, searching out blankets, hot water bottles, anything to keep this new born warm.

Alexander, James — January 18, 1943 was the "Baby Sister" that 8 year old Lily had waited for. "Some one had made a mistake" but Lily wasn't



Alex and Evelyn Popowich, June 6, 1964.

going to let it dampen her enthusiasm! She dressed him in dresses, hats, purse and all those dainty frilly things until he was old enough to realize her game and put a stop to it!

Alex's younger years were spent with a very busy family! They farmed, had a restaurant, a rooming house, and a bakery in Willingdon. He recalls being "underfoot". He attended school in St. Paul and then in Willingdon. When his sister Lily was employed at the Willingdon Hospital, she took charge of Alex for a couple of years, while Dad and Mom worked the ferry crews all over Alberta. All of Alex's holidays were spent with his parents, and he remembers good times; summer swims in the warm waters collected in old gravel pits, going to town with the ferry-foreman, for supplies and sometimes goodies.

Lily was good to him and they got along very well. Soon Lily married, moved away and Mom and Dad came home to retire. Alex continued classes in Willingdon and then applied for work at Duvernay's Chemical Plant. He was there employed when, we met, in mid 1963.

I had just completed a Lab. and X-ray course in Edmonton, and this was my first posting. Alex was a cantankerous patient who "tried my patience". It

was a few months before Alex and I began dating. Lily Rosychuk, with whom I was acquainted at home in Brosseau, was large with child, and came to Willingdon to her mother's to await the birth. Barry, her son, was hospitalized and Lily and I met and exchanged pleasantries, in the Hospital corridor. She invited me to visit her and view the crafts she had been making while awaiting her baby. It was Nov. 17, and cold, so she sent her brother to pick me up. Lo! and Behold! It was Alex! I'd no idea of the connection at all! It was the start of a daily courtship that took us to a June 6, 1964 wedding. We lived in Willingdon for one year because I worked in the hospital there. Then I began work at the Two Hills Hospital and we moved. I worked in Two Hills 6 years, with many staff members and several Doctors, (Chonko, Hrabar, Maryniak, Derbawka, Karasu, to name the ones who came to mind). Alex had been employed at Duvernay's Chemical Plant, and, continued, taking an Instrument Mechanics Course. Thus our time flew to 1971. The Duvernay plant was cutting back production and men. They had 2 layoffs which Alex survived but he still had to finish the apprenticeship, so we began to look for alternative employment.

Bernie Quinn from Rocky Mtn. House, offered to have Alex complete his apprenticeship at Gulf Strachan, a Sour Gas Processing facility near Rocky Mountain House. We took "2 seconds to decide" and began relocation plans. Our 5 years in "Rocky" were good for us. We learned to live away from relatives and they learned that we could be independent. Since there were no openings for me, I did the Hospital Lab. part time work, with Drs. Watson, Hein and Hay. At this time in our lives, we began a family. Our first born Mike Alexander, arrived June 5, 1974 one day before our 10th wedding anniversary with Dr. Horner attending, at University Hospital, Edmonton. Two years later June 1, 1976 Andrew James was born also with Dr. Horner attending at University Hospital, Edmonton. We were already on the look out for a job for Alex out of Sour Gas. Alex had the opportunity of saving a fellow worker's life by mouth to mouth resuscitation, after Sour Gas Inhalation had paralysed him. It scared us silly; we were never sure that someone would be there to do the same for Alex if the need arose. An employment opportunity presented itself, at St. Bride's newly opened Saddle Lake Gas Plant, under Ashland Oil. Alex applied, was accepted, and we headed back to "home country" baby "Andy" was just two weeks old!

We rented a farmhouse till we were able to find some "dirt". Armand and Therese Theroux sold us the commercial property (1/3 acre) being the North, East corner of the Lafond cross roads. We hastily serviced the land and parked a new mobile home there for "Instant Living" September 25, 1974. Come spring we took a good look at the pile of

refuse, old basement cement, rocks, junk, etc. and began two years of hard work to transform that dilapidated corner into a really neat yard with many trees, walks, garden, flowers and grass. On this piece of land, there had been a store and post office with living quarters upstairs, a shoe repair shop, in the same building, later a bit further north on the same piece of land a house, barn, a well, a biffy, and a blacksmith shop. We dug up umteen motor parts, horseshoes, 6" spikes, stove top lifters, and many more "Interesting treasures." We enjoyed the 2 years in Lafond and still feel very close to its town folks. Our son Mike attends school there and Andy comes for prekindergarten classes. We didn't really appreciate our non paying squatters. It seems these snakes had a hibernation set up in the old service station's underground tanks. They were unnerving to behold as they slid through our lawn, or cut across our path as we walked in the garden.

In the fall, 1978 we came upon an opportunity to buy a farm, Alex and Jean Logozar were selling the "Home Place", near Lac Santé. Mr. Logozar wasn't well and they are moving to St. Paul. I had always hoped to one day "have a piece of dirt", my husband says it was more like an obsession because I was constantly on the prowl for land. Again we "took two seconds to think it over", and bought the farm! November 1st, we were moved in at the farm and our Lafond home was on the market. January sent us Denis Gouin, a local chap, and he purchased our Lafond set up. We were relieved because that

meant that, by scraping up every visible coin "including the brown ones" we could pay off our farm. We had never before felt so glorious being broke!

Spring arrived on the farm and we were back into the yard cosmetic business. By the time we had come here, we had landscaped from scratch, at least 5 yards — receiving Rocky's award for yard beautification, two years in a row. This is our third spring on the farm and we've still much planting and transplanting to do. Hopefully in five years we can look back at dramatic improvements. We are just a "hop-skip and jump" from the Lac Sante Beach, so know what we do in summer for entertainment. The children love the freedom of the open spaces, Alex likes the quiet and the prospect of greenery work that is limited only by one's imagination and funds. Me? well, being a farmer's daughter, land gives me a sense of security that I'd never had since my childhood.

FRED AND ZENOVIA POPOWICH STORY

by Evelyn Popowich

Fred Popowich was born June 22, 1896, in Mamaestie, Austria, to Metro Popowich and his wife Domka (Lukeniuk). When their mother died suddenly, Fred was 7 years, his older brother Nick 17 years, his younger sister Maria 3 years. The children were scattered among whatever relatives were able to be responsible for their welfare. Fred was placed in his father's sister's care (Mary Tashuk). He had attended school 1 wk. before his mother's death, and that would be his "education".

As a child, Fred earned his keep. As a 7 yr. old he herded sheep and when he grew a little, he herded cattle. At the age of 11 yrs. he was on his own. Totally independant, he began farm labour for Mr. Sherbatiuk and then George Lannyk. At 13 he accepted a contract to deliver milk in Chernovatz, Bukovina, Austria in the employ of town's Mayor. By 1912, Fred, at 16, was well respected as an honest, hard working lad. As a result, the Major decided to spare the lad's future. He informed Fred one day "I have some advice for you. I fear a great war is close at hand and, as a young man, you will be asked to defend your country. I would rather see you flee to Canada's freedom. I will personally endorse your passport to save you any question during your voyage." Fred saved his money and soon was off to Canada by way of Bremen, Holland. The ship had a stop over in Liverpool, England. Here all Austrian passports were confiscated and the people had to remain in England till the passports were carefully checked. Some Austrian Jews had been forging passports and the authorities were wise to this. While in Liverpool, all Austrians were under surveillance. With no money, no English language and no work permits, the stay in Liverpool soon became a hungry hell! When a local



The children of Alex and Evelyn Popowich, Mike and Andrew, taken in spring of 1979.



Fred and Zenovia Popowich 50th Anniversary Feb. 1970. L-R: Mrs. Mandryk original bridesmaid, Zenovia, Fred, Mrs. Makowychuk original bridesmaid.

policeman found Fred searching in refuse bins for food, he collared him and carted him off to the local precinct. Instead of the jail sentence expected, he received a reprimand, enlightening him as to the personal health hazards of eating garbage. The policeman took Fred to a tackle shop, convinced the keeper to charge up a hook and line for Fred, wrote up a "fish vendor's licence" for Fred and set him out to the river. At 10¢ a fish, Fred began to afford to eat LEGALLY! It took English authorities 3 months to receive the return mail from Austria, confirming the authenticity of Fred's passport. Fred was allowed to proceed to Canada. He arrived at St. John's in the spring of 1914, and took the train to Montreal. He dug ditches and then began work as a scrap iron gatherer at a CPR rail car factory. A forge worker's accident left the job open to Fred and he was determined to be good as or better than his predecessor. His job was to heat 18" rivets in the forge. It was piece work at 2¢ each! Within two weeks Fred had become efficient enough to earn \$12.00 a day — a fantastic sum for that time. He was stashing away extra money by now.

Soon Fred's father arrived in Canada from Austria, to fetch his son back home. Fred refused, but bought a \$80.00 voyage ticket back for his father. Within weeks World War I hit full force.

All Austrian and German Immigrants in Canada were immediately suspected of espionage etc. They were fired from all jobs and kept under a parole type watch. Farming was the only recourse and the west was as good a direction as any.

In July, 1914, Fred boarded a train for Winnipeg — the ticket 1¢ a mile. The Immigrant office sent him to Saskatoon as farm harvest help. Here Fred saw a sight he would never understand nor forget! A religious sect, fleeing Russia had settled there and since they had NO oxen, they harnessed 20 of their women to a plow! "Never Underestimate The Power Of A Woman"???

Fred saved his wages and after harvest headed for Calgary and then to Edmonton, where there were friends and relatives. The city is no place for a young man if he's to hang on to his money so Fred soon headed out to Bellis. He searched for a homestead. Early frosts dictated that Glendon was too far north for a home. So he went back to Edmonton and offered the "Relief Employment Office" a deal. For enough lumber to build a boat, he agreed to employ 2 men for the summer at \$1 a day each. The govt. agreed. Fred and the two men built the boat and set out to pan gold. They made \$3 a day — each working 10 hrs! One summer was enough to realize this wasn't a paying proposition. The men continued panning the next year but Fred had other plans. He searched for labour employment — manufacturing cement in Biggar Dyke, Alberta. He learned to repair river ferries and did so on the Athabasca and Smokey Rivers. He dynamited rock one summer in Jasper. Then he began building river ferries at Finnigan, Stewall and Trochu. He learned river flow speeds — currents etc. i.e. the North Saskatchewan flows 15 mph at Drayton Valley, 5 mph at Edmonton and near Myrnam it slows to 3 mph. He piloted a river ferry, alone from Drayton Valley to Barrymore and on to Shandro for installation. He was a skilled swimmer, a brave man and had a good sense of water speed and shallows all these qualities made him the ideal man to transfer ferries or to dislodge a run-away ferry.

Fred also worked as a Railroad Section man, and immediately applied for Canadian Citizenship. In 1918 he bought a farm in the Lac Bellevue area. He received a receipt for the farm payment but land ownership was only allowed to Canadian Citizens.



Fred and Zenovia Popowich Family. Back row: Alex, Peter, Casey, Nick, Mike. Seated: Lilly (Rosychuk) Fred, Zenovia. Easter 1969 on the occasion of Nick's visit from Florida.



Wedding picture of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Popowich.

It was 1920 before the Citizenship was finalized and the land title issued. About this time, the war ended but it became impossible to contact relatives in the old country. Some time later news arrived that Fred's brother Nick, had died one year after serving in World War I, his sister Mary had married a Romanian lad. That is the last he had heard from them.

Fred became a farmer and a farmer needs a wife. A young lady was growing up around Lake Eliza and Fred would soon meet Zenovia Skakun.

Zenovia Skakun was born in 1905, second child of Kost Skakun and Paraska Dochuk. In 1908 the family headed for Argentina, South America. All went well until the locust came and ate everything in sight except the animals, the children, the stones and the metal objects. After 5 years with several locust invasions, Kost decided to move to Canada. The children had mastered the Spanish language and gained a brother. They also lost a sister who chose to remain in Argentina.

In 1914, they sailed from Buenos Aires, to Halifax and then to Mundare, to live for 2 years with Uncle Mike Lakusta. Then it was out to the Lake Eliza, around Stoney Lake. There she met Fred Popowich. On Feb. 2, 1921 they were married in a

St. Paul home which served as a Roman Catholic Church. For wedding gifts they received 3 live hens, 1 pillow, and \$25. The cash paid for the musicians. Their honeymoon was spent in a make-shift hut, mud plastered interior and exterior. The "Monsoons", of the month of June soaked the roof through and one morning at breakfast, a large piece of mud let loose and smashed onto the table, narrowly missing them both! That was truly roughing it.

Eventually they bought 6 head of cattle and began farming. Fred blasted stumps and cleared land. Because of the hard times, Fred hunted, trapped and fished. One early spring, while on a hunting trip, he broke through the ice. He swam 150 yards under the ice before he found ice thin enough to break, in order to reach the surface. He was able to pull himself to the surface but was unhappy, he had not been able to hang on to his \$85.00 rifle in the mishap. Later he sealed a jar containing a lit flashlight which he lowered into the hole in search of the gun, but never did find it. Many years later, while working on a bridge building crew, Fred's swimming saved another man's life. Mr. Rossi fell from the bridge into the Battle River. Fred dived in and rescued him.

Another life was saved one day. As Fred and Zenovia were checking their stock, they heard a



Fred Popowich standing amidst his creations made mostly of diamond willow. The pieces under his hands are rosewood. His most precious ones are distributed among his children. Many of his pieces of handicraft are now across Canada and U.S. Fred began diamond willow whittling, while on the ferry watch at the Beauvallon crossing. He had many hours of waiting in the 7 years he was working there, and he did not waste his time.

child's whail across the river. Fred boated across and learned that a handicapped lad had wandered away from his family. Together with the family, Fred began the search and found him crouched among the roots of a large fallen tree, cold hungry and terrified.

Fred and Zenovia raised their family of six in several residences. Fred had suffered many hardships because of lack of education, so when his children were of age he initiated the building of a school on CPR land, 3 miles north of their farm. Instead of attending classes, Peter and Lily decided it was more profitable to drown gophers at 5¢ each. They left each morning — ate lunch and returned at "after school time." All went well till the teacher arrived — concerned about the absent children's health. When Zenovia was done with these two rascals, one could really be "concerned about their health!" By the way it took 4 pails of water to each hole but they got nearly 400 gophers and \$20.00 wasn't a sum at which you turned up your nose, then. Horses were the children's means of transportation. Lily recalls a headstrong mare who would go ½ way to school, then make a neat about turn, and head back home! They missed an average of 5 days a month till another horse was commandeered. Their teacher was Metro Nickolaychuk. Because there was 21 years between the birth dates of their first son and the last, they have a fairly "spread out" family.

As the family grew up the older ones decided they wanted a "family business venture" besides the farm. Fred was already the ferryman for the Beauvallon Crossing, so he bought a St. Paul cafe and a rooming house, and sent the boys off to run it. When the boys were old enough to branch out on their own, the rooming house and the cafe were sold and each who had worked there, had received valuable experience in business management and public service. The family had also bought the Willingdon Bakery and Confectionery. During this time Fred farmed and took contracts to build Willingdon's sidewalks. He was a fire chief and the local town policeman.

After retiring from the farm, Fred and Zenovia both worked ferry crews and then retired in Willingdon. In 1971, they had a large "Bash" some 500 guests collected to help celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

These are their children:

MIKE — Born March 21/1922. Married Mary Skawronski (Lafond). They farmed along the river west of the Myrnam bridge, later moved near Lac Bellevue, and are now retired on their farm.

NICK — Born Feb. 14/1924. Joined the Canadian Armed Forces and cooked for our Northern DEW LINE and became a Master chef. He married Marjorie Jennex of Halifax raised 5 children,

was a master chef on a USA luxury liner. He is now a real estate dealer in Charlottown, Florida.

CASEY — Born Nov. 28/1928. Served with the Canadian Army, married Agnes Kaminsky of Edmonton, where he is in "Mens Wear Sales". They raised four daughters.

PETER — Born June 5/1931. Married Doris Paradis of Ashmont, worked at the Chlor-Alkali Plant, raised 4 children, and now has an Insurance and Real Estate business in Two Hills.

LILY — Born Oct. 28/1934. Became a practical nurse, married Triffon Rosychuk, raised 4 children on a Brosseau-Lac Santé farm. Lily works as a nursing assistant at the Two Hills Hospital and Nursing Home.

ALEX — January 18/1943. Worked at Duvernay Chlor-Alkali Plant, married Evelyn Fedoruk (Sidor's daughter) worked 5 years in Rocky Mountain House (sour gas industry). They have two sons and reside on a Lac Santé farm. Is presently employed at Dome's Saddle Lake Gas Plant.

THE HISTORY OF MR. AND MRS. MIKE F. POPOWICH

by Evelyn Popowich

"Uncle Mike and Aunt Mary", as they are known locally, reside near Lac Bellevue, on the Myrnam-St. Paul Highway. Their neat yard is located on the S.W. corner of N.W. 35-55-9. They have become an integral part of a closely knit, friendly, concerned community of farmers. This is their story.

Mike is the first child born to Fred and Zenovia Popowich. Their roots are researched as well as possible, and can be found with their youngest son's history (Alex and Evelyn Popowich).

Mike was born a few weeks after his parents' first wedding anniversary. He arrived March 21, 1922, at home on the farm, in a sod shack, with Mrs. Mike Borsuk as Zenovia's midwife.



1938 — at 18 years Mike is part of this orchestra: Accordion — Mike Popowich, Violin — Alex Popowich, Guitar — Chris Arychuk.



Mike and Mary Popowich's wedding picture.

As a very young child, much before 2 years, Mike remembers being placed on the sunporch to amuse himself while his mother did her farm chores. She had also tethered her clucking hen's leg to the porch, so that the hen wouldn't escape to the woods and become some coyote's culinary delight. While Mom "chored", Mike "toyed" — with the clucking hen's baby chicks! By the time Mom returned, Mike had experimented until he had ushered each and every one to heaven's final resting chicken coop! We needn't describe Mom's reaction?!!!

Pioneering wasn't a safe hobby for small children. At about 3 years of age, Mike remembers being frightened badly — well, almost killed! He was playing on the kitchen floor one evening when his Dad's adult cousin began handling an unfamiliar 30-30. It was LOADED — the vacuum from the blast extinguished the coal-oil lamp and scared everyone double. When the lamp was relit, it was

discovered that the bullet entered the floor, inches from young Mike! On second thought, it had narrowly missed a large dishpan of Zenovia's dishes, too! This hair-raising experience taught young Mike to never become foolhardy enough to disrespect a weapon — even to this day!

The Popowich house was beginning to sport new faces — soon brother Nick arrived, then Casey, then Peter, and later a much longed for sister, Lily. Some eight years later in 1943 a "Hanger on" arrived — Alex.

In the meantime, Mike was a busy young lad. At age eight years, he began to walk 7 miles a day to attend the "Beela" School. He walked all the time for the 7 grades they offered! When he was 14 years old, it was decided that he should stay home to help meet the growing needs of the family, rather than leave home to attend a far-away school for further education. During his much enjoyed school years, he recalls his first teacher as being Miss "Auspaldistan". He recalls "Metro Nekolaichuk" (William was at Chesterville), and "Joe Sosnowski" — who taught many, many years. Mr. Sosnowski is now a retired school teacher at Myrnam.

The years of daily walking, — "more often running" — to and from school, put young Mike in super-good physical shape. When school was out, for the last year, he did a whole summer's heavy farm work and then took an adult man's place in William Arychuk's threshing machine crew. It meant loading 18 to 20 loads of bundles a day, a 10 hour day, with no days off until bad weather gave some relief, and would dictate a rest. The fall was BEAUTIFUL, and no one rested! This 14 year old lad worked 52 days straight before allowing his father to replace him for the next 8 days until permanent snow fell. I wonder how the trade unions would view that today?? Nonetheless, the pay was a whopping 25¢ an hour, \$2.50 a day, and he worked towards his dad's custom threshing costs, (5¢ a bushel for oats, 6¢ for barley, 7¢ for wheat).

Somewhere in the late 1930's, when Mike was about 15 years old, there opened a local coal mine, very close to where Mike lived. It was owned by Mr. Tobido from St. Paul, "Tobido Mines". Mike secured work there as part of the crew. During its full-scale operation it employed some 30 men. The mine was a shaft bored into a hillside. It produced coal comparable to "Black Diamond" quality, that was sorted into lump coal at \$3.50 per ton; nut and egg (stove coal); and slack (good for hogs). There was no railway around, so all the coal was trucked or sledged out. The seam was about 4-2/3 feet thick, and the mine ran 3 years until a lack of labour (brought on by the war) forced its closure.

Mike remembers illegally entering the St. Paul bar at age 15 years with his pit boss, "Mickey McClaine". Mickey's advice?, "Pull your cap a little over your eyes — and the bartender won't be

suspicious." Mike later went with his dad, and still 2 beers was his limit, and to this day he's never broken his "no nonsense" promise to himself. As a result, he has never been asked for ID, nor has he ever been asked to leave a bar.



Mike became an experienced baker in their family-venture bakery in Willingdon (early 1940's).

A working adolescent needs entertainment, so Mike bought himself a 2 row button accordion. He soon mastered it to the point where he put together a dance band. He remembers many a dance date played for \$1.50 TOTAL! All through the years, Mike had always been part of one band or another. Today he owns 2 accordions, one being the prestigious "Cordovox".

Helping with the farming, playing evenings, and taking odd jobs when farm work was slack, or money was tight, Mike lived at home until he met and married Mary Skawronski.

Mary is the eldest child born to Alex Skawronski and his wife Fedora (Sokolski), January 26, 1931, at their farm home bordering Lac Santé (then Big Fish Lake). She attended school at Chesterville, walking the daily 7 mile round trip. She recalls that John Melnychuk, St. Paul's optometrist today, was her school teacher. At age 15, it was decided that she remain at home to help on the family farm. She



Nov. 20, 1973 — Mike and Mary celebrated their 25th Wedding Anniversary with family and friends.

helped with the care of her younger brothers, Johnny and Freddy, and sister Helen. At age 17 years, she met Mike F. Popowich.

On November 20, 1948 Mike and Mary were married at the St. Paul United Church. They had a wedding dance at the Lac Bellevue National Hall, and a reception at the Fred Popowich farm the next day. Mary's attendants were Amy Austin and Victoria Hrushka and Mike's were Harry Taschuk and William Kostyniuk.

By the time Mike had worked 3 years in a family venture, the St. Paul Cafe, and then 2 years' construction and 1 year's production at Duvernay's Chlor-Alkali plant, he decided farming was by far "the better way", to make a living. Mike and Mary began working hard and saving as much as they could to pay for land. They bought land that had been homesteaded by Adam Zayatz and some by Alex Popowich. The rest they bought from Harry Taschuk. During these years Mike was also a ferry man at the Beauvallon crossing.

In 1966, a community pasture venture acquired nearly all the land around Mike and Mary's river farm, so they too sold out. They acquired a whole section, where they reside now.

Mary loves her handiwork (crochet) and reading as hobbies; besides her household duties and chores.

Mike loves good down-home, toe-tapping music; a good joke, fishing and big game hunting. His father, a well known woodsman, trapper and marksman, taught Mike to handle traps, guns and fishing gear. A yearly fall tradition saw Mike and his Dad each "get his buck". Mike's Dad, at 84, still has perfect eyesight but his hand isn't quite as steady as it used to be, and his legs complain a lot more, so since 1977 he's given up the yearly hunt.

"Uncle Mike and Aunt Mary's" story is much like everyone else's — some tears, some fears, some setbacks, but many happy times and undoubtedly a storehouse of fond memories.

POPOVICH, WASYL, RAFIFTA AND FAMILY

Wasyl Popovich was born in 1863, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alex Popovich, at Mamaestie, Chernovtsi in the Ukraine. (Mrs. Popovich was the former Miss Wasylena Viznuk). Miss Rafifta Eliuk was born in 1868 to Mr. and Mrs. Mike Eliuk, also of Mamaestie, Chernovtsi. (Mrs. Eliuk was the former Miss Helen Demchuk.)

Wasyl and Rafifta were married about 1892, and were blessed with seven children, all born in the Ukraine. All the children attended school in Mamaestie for six years except Bill, the youngest, who only went to school there for eight months before they came to Canada. Grades I and II went to



Certificate of Marriage

This is to Certify that the particulars of the undernoted Marriage, which is on record in this Department are as follows:

BRIDEGROOM		BRIDE	
Name in full	<u>NICHOLAS VERTYPORA</u>	Name in full	<u>ANNA POPOVICH</u> 1914
Place of Residence	<u>Wasthao, Alberta</u>	Place of Residence	<u>Brossou, Alberta</u> 19
Place of Birth	<u>Austria, Bukovina</u>	Place of Birth	<u>Austria, Bukovina</u>
Age <u>21 Years</u> Condition	<u>Bachelor</u>	Age <u>18 Years</u> Condition	<u>Spinster</u> 1895
Occupation	<u>Farmer</u>	Occupation	<u>---</u>
Names of { Father <u>Stephen Vertypora</u>		Names of { Father <u>Vasil Popovich</u>	
Parents { Mother <u>Eudokia Vertypora</u>		Parents { Mother <u>Raisa Trecul</u>	
Place of Marriage <u>St. Peter & St. Paul Russian Orthodox Church, Wasthao, Alta.</u>			
Names and Residences of Two Witnesses		<u>John Vertypora, Wasthao, Alberta</u>	
		<u>Mary Rybinska, Wasthao, Alberta</u>	
Officiating Clergyman		<u>Rev. P. Pechunsky</u>	
Denomination of Clergyman		<u>Russian Orthodox</u>	
Date of Marriage	<u>30th</u> day of <u>July</u> 19 <u>14</u>	Record No.	<u>14-08-003715</u>
Registered at	<u>Wase1</u> on the <u>29th</u> day of <u>August</u> 19 <u>14</u>		
Given under my hand and seal of the Registrar General at Edmonton,			
this	<u>Thirteenth</u> day of <u>April</u> 19 <u>14</u>		



Nº 20306

Certificate of Marriage re: Nicholas Vertypora and Anna Popowich.

school from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Grades III to VI attended from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

Wasy1 Popovich came to Canada in the spring of 1910 with the hopes of making a better life for his family whom he had left behind. He took a homestead near Vilna, built a small house, and worked hard to break some land and plant a garden. Much to his dismay, the frost turned everything black.

He didn't think that was a good place to live, so he visited a close friend, Mafty Sherstanko, who had come to Canada some years before. Mr. Sherstanko advised him to get some land where there were hills, as low-lying land was prone to frost. So in 1911, Wasy1 Popovich took a homestead (N.E. 6-56-10 and S.E. 6-56-10) five miles south of Lafond. That year and the next, he broke twenty acres of hilly land and built a granary that served as a place to live, also.

Wasy1 went back to the Ukraine in January 1913, where he made a provision to bring back the whole family to Canada. On April 8, 1913, they took a ship to Bremen, Germany, and from there to Halifax, Canada. Then they travelled the long journey to Vegreville, arriving on May 5, and were met by a friend Mr. John Pundick, Sr. They spent the night at Mr. Choban's, and arrived the next day at their new

home (the granary) to start their new life. With the whole family helping, they had a house built by fall.

Mr. Tommy Clark was hired to disc and harrow the land. They seeded by hand until they could afford to buy machinery. Every year more land was broken, and they bought livestock. Mrs. Popovich worked hard to supplement the family income by planting a huge garden and selling her produce to residents of Lafond and St. Paul.

The house they had worked so diligently to build burned down in 1920. Again they lived in the granary until a new house was built. Mr. Popovich had a heart condition, and died of heart failure December 4, 1938. Mrs. Popovich died May 5, 1943. Both were 75 years old.

Anna (Popovich) Wertypora — born November 21, 1881, came with her parents to Canada in 1913. She married Nick Wertypora in July 1914 in Wasthao. They farmed east of Beauvallon Ferry on the north side of the river. They moved to Vernon, British Columbia, then back to Beauvallon, on the south side of the river, to a farm once owned by Herman Roberge. They later moved to Foisy, where their neighbors were Ralph Steinhauer, Silver Orlecki, and Ernest Holden. From here they moved

Certificate of Baptism

This is to Certify that Anna Popovich

Child of Wasył Popovich

and Raisa Iluk

born on the 21 day of November 1895 at Stari Mamaiwei, U S S R

was BAPTISED and CONFIRMED on the 21 day of November 1899

at Stari Mamaiwei, county & province Czernowce, Ukraine, USSR

ACCORDING TO THE RITE OF THE UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

by the Rev. Fr. Ipolit Worobkevich

Sponsors { George Motrovich
Dominica Demchuk

as appears from the Baptismal Register of said Church.

25 January

19 50

Winnipeg, Man.,

over

PASTOR

Certificate of Baptism re: Anna Popovich.

to Chesterville, five miles south of Lafond, then to St. Paul. In St. Paul, they owned a livery stable and rooming house. Anna also managed a store, selling groceries and some dry goods. From the store, my brother Johnny and cousin Ernie Petruk stole candy when Baba's back was turned. She always told the boys she had eyes in the back of her head.



Mr. and Mrs. Nick Vertypora's sons-in-law — Mike Diachuk, Bill Basaraba, Alex Harasyn, Andrew Petruk.

Anna and Nick had seven children, three boys and four girls: Jean married Andrew Petruk, now living in Vernon, British Columbia. They have one son, Ernest, who married Giselle and they have two children, Patrick and Mark, and are now living in Montreal.

Mary married Alex Harasym, and they also have seven, history repeating itself, three boys and four girls: Olga, Johny, Norman, Fern, Gloria, and William.

Victoria married William Basaraba, and they have five children: Donald, in Two Hills; Raymond, in St. Paul; Adeline, in Edmonton; Noreen, in St. Vincent; Brenda, in Calgary.

Tony married Irene, and is now living in Burnaby, British Columbia. They have one son, Patrick, in Edmonton.

Steve is living in St. Paul.

Anne married Mike Diachuk, and is living in Vegreville. They have one son, Gordon, who is married and living in Calgary.

Alex passed away as an infant in 1927.

HISTORY OF GEORGE PRODANIUK

by John Prodaniuk

George Prodaniuk 1888-1953, was my father. By the goodwill of this older brother Michael Luken-

chuk, George was able to immigrate to Canada, in the spring of 1913, from his village Wowchkiwtsi, county of Sniatyn, Province Halychyna, Ukraine, before the first World War engulfed Europe. Coming from a country where land and tree were scarce, the wooded homesteads in Alberta, (which were available at \$10. for a 160 acre farm) seemed very promising. So he decided to make his home North of the North Saskatchewan river in range 9, Township 55. He felled logs, built a cabin and started clearing land.

He made 3 more moves getting closer to the village of St. Paul each time. Finally in 1933 he filed for his last homestead. He built up once again and started living in Township 57 only 8 miles from St. Paul. I was left on his previous farm 3 miles east and 9 miles south of town S.W. 36-56-9.

I have to go back to the year 1916 when he took a companion to share his life joys and sorrows, Helen Babiuk (Petruk by a former marriage with 2 girls, Mary and Anne). I, John, was born April 1, 1917. My brother Bill was born a year later April 20, 1918. In 1921 my mother died. My half sisters ended up living in Minnesota U.S.A. with mother's sister. I had the pleasure of meeting them again after 50 years of separation, but that is another story and has nothing to do with the history of our district.

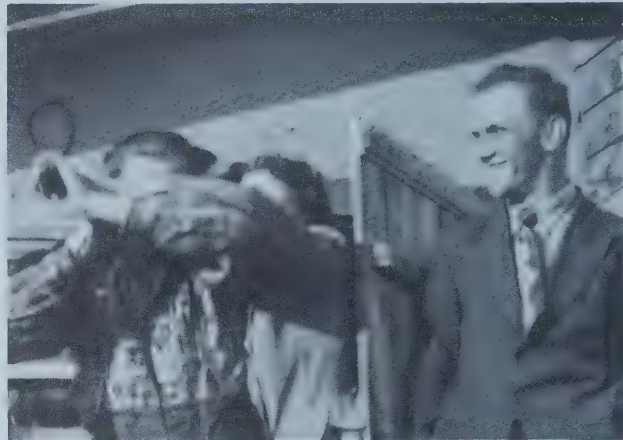
My father was left with two small boys to bring up. The fight for survival was hard. Besides having to deal with economic problems, and the weather he had to be both father and mother to us. Without the occasional help from the neighbors, I don't think we would have made it.

Life was hard for dad and us, but I still recall many good times we had together (my younger brother Bill and me). St. Paul was 16 miles away from the place we lived at the time. A trip to town and back took a good day and part of the night. Dad would leave us two boys at home to keep the fire going, and buck more wood for next day. As soon as he left, we would decide to go visit the neighbors. Sometimes we would spend a whole day and not get back till dark. We would then light the coal oil lamp; (the house is cold) so we start a fire in the wood stove, then we bring in the buck saw, and the saw horse into the house, where it's nice and warm, and start bucking wood inside the house. We cleaned up the mess, after we were finished, so dad wouldn't know where we did the sawing.

One time we thought to surprise dad, by making up a batch of bread, as there was only 1 loaf in the house. We took out the big wooden bowl which was used for kneading dough, I rolled up my sleeves and was ready to begin. Since I was older, I got the pleasure of mixing up the flour and water, Bill only stood by and added more when I directed him. It was fun, more flour, more water, till the bowl was full. I must have used up to 50 lbs. yeast etc. Father sadly carried it out, and dumped it to the pigs next

morning. He scolded us a lot, as money was scarce, and these pranks were very costly.

Children want to know what makes a watch tick. One day I took this one pocket watch and opened it up and started examining it. When I got the main spring, it sprung and threw all the tiny pieces, all over the wooden floor, which had wide cracks between the lumber. Only the frame and the case was left in my hands. I closed the case and hung it back on the wall.



Nick Prodaniuk, Rose Prodaniuk, John Prodaniuk — 1950.

Another incident; Dad had a 22 rifle to do hunting and scaring crows and hawks away from the little chicks we had on the place. My brother and I decided to play with that. I would put a match stick, inside the barrel, open up the hammer and shoot it out. Then I decided to pack in a few matches at a time. This kept up till I had too many sticks and they blocked up the barrel. I then decided to shoot the sticks with a 22 bullet. The bullet did not go through. I loaded again. The barrel of the rifle was plugged solid, so I finally hung up the rifle. About a week later a crow perched on a high tree, so dad picked up the rifle, fired, with no result. He figured he missed the crow and loaded again and fired. The crow was still there. He took out the hammer, looked into the barrel and found it blocked. He then went into the house, put the barrel into the fire of the cook stove. Now he was going to melt the lead out. The melted lead dropped out, he cooled the barrel off and looked through again, but now he couldn't see through because the barrel had bent from the heat. That ended the life of that rifle. I don't wish to bore you with my sad accomplishments, as there were many more; I just wanted to give an example of what my father had to put up with.

In the spring of 1924, we started school (which was open for the first time) in the Swedeboro district. The children from age 7 to 15 were all in Grade one. Some of us did not know any English, so the teacher seated us with one of the English or



George Prodaniuk, Sylvia Prodaniuk, Rose Prodaniuk — Picture taken in front of house on last homestead.

Swede children who knew a little about reading and writing and they sort of tutored us. We copied their work. We had no scribbler in those days. We used slates and slate pencils. We also did our homework on slates. Sometimes the work got erased; then there were a lot of tears.

On some of the hills with black soil, short grass and no trees, there grew a lot of herb plants, which we called seneca roots. Dad made us tools of hard steel sharpened at one end to dig out these plants, break the tops away and bring home the roots only. We would wash them clean and dry them well in the sun. When dried father would take them to town and sell them by the pound, at places where they bought fur skins, horse tail etc. Dad's favorite buyer was Sam Hassan. It took a lot of digging to make up a pound of brittle roots. These plants had roots similar to dandelions, the older the plant the heavier the root.

In 1926, father moved to another farmstead and we continued going to school at Lac Canard. My brother and I were very fond of music as dad played a flute. This was a brass pipe about two feet long with 6 holes on the lower end. We started to make some musical instruments like a Ukrainian instrument called the Dulcimar. The first one we made of ordinary thin boards with two bridges and a bunch of wire strings, strung across the length of the box. The first violin was barely shaped to look like a violin. With no wood glue, we sewed around the edge with rabbit wire. These two instruments must have made a lot of horrible sounds, but that was the beginning. In the later years when we grew up we were able to make a real violin and dulcimar. We played for local dances, parties and some weddings, or just played in the evenings when someone came in. A neighborly visit was a form of relaxing

and socializing. Neighbors were always welcome, and did not wait for a special invitation.

My father was a small man, but he had a big heart, and that was not always to his advantage, as his heart influenced his reasoning. In 1930 he brought home a housekeeper (a widow Millie Karpishyn) (Soltys), with 6 children, Annie, Katie, Johnny, Mary, Peter, Doris. We now had a cook, but the food which was scarce had to be shared threefold. One good thing we had more company for swimming, fishing, berrypicking, playing etc. Into this over-crowded household 3 more children were born, Nick, Rosie and Jennie. My father and his big heart loved them all. Infact about the only thing he could give them was love. The depression of the thirties and the hail storm of 1935 made bad conditions worse. The older children had to go out working to help feed and clothe the younger children at home. The wages were very measly as the other farmers could not afford to pay for hired help. So you were almost working for your board. The girls worked for \$5. to \$6. a month. The boys anywhere from 25¢ a day to \$20 a month during harvest.

Then came the second World War, and the prices of farm products started going up, and times got better, but it was too late to help my father's situation any, as he was in poor health by now, and was gradually growing weaker, and was not able to farm any longer. His son William went overseas to war, but was one of the fortunate to come back. As I was married, farming and had one child at that time, my conscription was delayed to a later date, and by then the war had ended. I was happy about that, I never did want to go. Wars were not my idea of a civilized world, and I did not wish to glorify in them.

In the year 1953, father went to Ontario to visit some of his adopted children, who had moved to Toronto and Oshawa during the war years to get jobs. He did not make it back home. He collapsed at the C.N.R. Station in Edmonton. We laid him to rest in the local St. Micheal's cemetry just a few miles from his first homestead in Canada, a few graves away from my mother's grave. The rest of the family are all gone away, and I'm the only one left here.



George Prodaniuk and family: Kneeling: Gloria, Neil, Rose, Jennie Prodaniuk. 2nd row: Sylvia, Roland, Mr. and Mrs. Prodaniuk, Annie Neil, Kate and Bobby Yip, Doris, Mary and Julian Dargis. Back row: Nick, Sophie, John, Bill Prodaniuk, John Soltys, Larry Neil, and Peter Soltys.

William is near Hamilton. Annie, Johnny, Doris, Peter, and Nick are around Oshawa and Toronto. Jennie is in Nova Scotia, Mary at Grande Centre, Rose in Red Deer, Alberta.

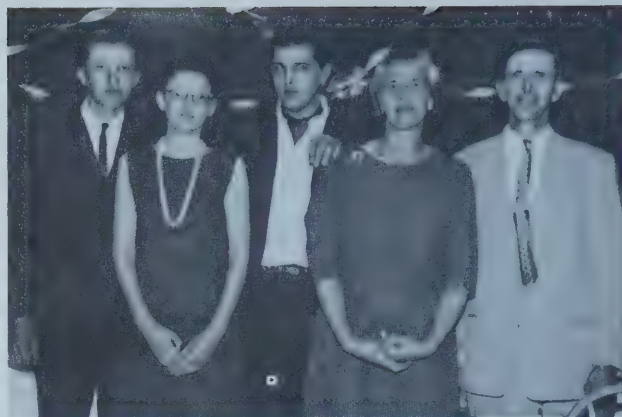
HISTORY OF JOHN PRODANIUK

by John Prodaniuk

Since I have already written about my life interwinding with my fathers, I do not want to repeat myself, only add a few more special occasions like my marriage to Sophie Sorochan, formerly of Slawa, Alberta, on September 22 in the year 1936. Out of this marriage, we have three children, Sylvia, Roland and Robert, who live in Edmonton, at the present time. Our youngest son Robert, wife Barbara and daughter, Dovina are always talking about coming back to live in Lac Bellevue District, therefore, I have left them some hills and valleys and lakeshore for their future home. Sylvia has never married. Roland is married to Evelyn Boisvert (a sister to Barbara, Robert's wife). They have 2 sons, Zane and Prosper John, also a daughter, Melodie. So far to date, that gives us 4 grandchildren.

We (my wife and I) started farming on our own in 1937. These were still depression years and times were very hard. I had to work for neighbours also they would help me put my crop in, as I had no machinery or horsepower. In 1938, I was able to buy a team of horses and a set of harness. Then I hauled wood into St. Paul to pay for a bobsled and sulky plow. I hauled over 100 loads during a 3 winter period. You had to go to the bush one day, cut the load and bring it home. Next day, you hauled it to town. You got \$2.00 per load, \$4.00 for birch wood. I had to do a lot of trapping to make that extra dollar. Sometimes this paid off better than working for wages. Also, I cut logs and hewed them for other people, helped build barns, houses, granaries, etc. I even sold rabbits at \$.05 each to the fox farms.

In 1939, I got us a radio. My, what a luxury that was. You could listen for hours at a time, just relaxing and enjoying the different programs. In those days, you needed a permit to operate a radio. Another pleasant thought comes to mind, when the district got all hooked up through a telephone



John, Sophie, Roland, Sylvia, Robert Prodaniuk.

system, running on barb wire fences, with wire coming into your house, then hooked up to ear-phones or microphones. Conversations carried into late hours at night. Can you imagine an evening with everyone listening in for miles around and talking together. Some had special hook up to their radios, and people who had no radios could listen to some music or news. One problem was to call some individual who was not listening in at the time, you had to hoot and hollar. Then finally there were some buzzers invented. The other problem was in spring when the ground thawed, the wires became grounded and the voices did not carry well.

I farmed with horses until 1948. In 1949, I got my first Oliver caterpillar tractor. My farm, which was more suited for a recreation resort than grain growing, could not be worked by a rubber tire tractor. The town children used to come to ski and toboggan on our hills. That was before the power toboggans were invented. In these past war years, new farm machinery was not available, and farmers paid high prices for used machinery which sometimes had faults that you found out later to your sorrow. Since there was no guarantee with these, you had two choices; either try and fix them to improve them somehow, or buy another implement.

In 1961, the hydro power came into the district. I did not get hooked up until 2 years later. So weekends we could visit someone who had a T.V. already and watch some programs like Bonanza. Then finally we had electric lights (no more coal-oil



John Prodaniuk



Roland, Robert, Sylvia



Sophie



Wedding Day, Sept. 22, 1936. Sophie and John Prodaniuk.

lamps), plug ins for vehicles, fridge, deep freezer, etc. Life was great. Then the real phone came. You visited with the neighbours on the phone, called into town for repairs, appointments and wondered how you ever got along without these conveniences.

In 1972, I sold the farm, cattle, farm equipments, bought a home in St. Paul and semi-retired. I still do some finishing carpentry.

THE PROSKIW FAMILY

by Randy Proskiw

The "Old Myrnam Church" was the scene of a momentous event for the Proskiw family. It was on this day Nov. 21, 1922, that people from the surrounding area came to witness Steve Proskiw, son of John and Josephine, and Grace Wasyluk, daughter of Alex and Sophie, join their lives together to found the Canadian branch of the Proskiw family.

Grace had come with her parents from the old country. After a brief stopover in Morris, Manitoba, she continued to Pathfinder in 1909. (Pathfinder is southeast of Myrnam) To put bread on her family's table, she was soon working as a waitress.

Steve had to come to Alberta from Austria in 1905. His parents first settled in Roundhill, Alberta (near Camrose). Steve worked for the Canadian Pacific Railway laying tracks on the Roundhill —

Claysmore area. It was during this period that he met Grace.

Steve's parents moved to the Myrnam area in 1922, just in time to gain a daughter-in-law.

After church, a reception was held at the Wasyluk residence for the new couple. A small wedding party and a few gifts were given to the couple. Then, on to Myrnam where another reception was held to welcome the newlyweds. This was to be home for a couple of months.

In January 1923, Steve and his young bride moved north across the North Saskatchewan River. Here in Henley School District they started their life on the homestead in a one-room shack. As spring approached, the railroad man and the waitress lady got ready for their first year together as farmers.

If life wasn't exactly a bowl full of cherries in their first year, eventually their first crop was harvested. Life had been trying but was generous in their first year; so generous that on March 4, 1924 their first son John Steve was born.

There were few doctors in those days and those that were in practice were far enough away that people could not get to them quickly. Therefore, midwives were called upon in times of need. During John's time to enter this world, Baba Hawreluk was there to assist Grace through her special moment in life. When it was all over, the happiest moment belonged to Steve, who now held his first-born son.

Other special moments in Steve and Grace's lifetime were the newborn faces in their lives. There



Baba and Gido Proskiw — 1923.

was Stephania, their first born daughter on Jan. 18, 1926. Then Willy on March 10, 1929, followed by Lawrence on Jan. 27, 1931. Two daughters Elizabeth and Rose, the baby of the family, on June 22, 1933 and May 28, 1935, respectively. Three boys and three girls, enough to keep both mom and dad occupied.

There were few modern day conveniences in those days and even less money. One had to make do with very little. The children would play with rag or mud dolls or play baseball (the bat made out of a piece of tree branch and ball made out of a rock with cloth wrapped around it). One day a week was set apart and that was Sunday. Although most people were not devoutly religious, church services were held every Sunday at John Berezanski's homestead. After church it was picnic time! The families would gather with friends for an afternoon of decent food, relaxing conversation and for the children their many friends to play with.

As dusk would fall the slow walk home would begin. Being that homesteads were between a half mile and one mile apart, a large group of friends that resided in the same direction would go home together. As your homestead was passed, a family would leave the group.

If one could make it through the early frost and the summer hail storms (which were frequently but never excessively damaging) there were always taxes to pay. Taxes were five dollars per year, but you did not always have five dollars at tax time. In preference of being ejected from your land, the county extended an offer that couldn't be refused. Pay the five dollars or work off your taxes by working for the community.

Many of the farmers could not afford the taxes on their land, so they worked for the community.



John, Stephania and Willie — 1930.

Generally, this meant road maintenance. Until the 1940's roads were mere Indian trails that connected one homestead to another until you reached one of the country general stores. But as these received more traffic, better roads were built. It took a fair number of M.D. workers plus many volunteer farmers (working to pay off back taxes) to improve and maintain the roads.

With the coming of the automobile, and the development of road systems, the long journeys to the general store would not be a day-long affair. A trip to the store usually meant leaving early in the morning, quite often Saturday or Sunday. You had two choices, Dan Shaka's General Store near Lake



The Proskiw Farmstead.

Eliza, or in 1950 "Sam Spades" store near present day Lac Bellevue Hall. So Steve, Grace and the children would go to the store for cloth, coffee, mail, farm supplies and some candy (if they had an extra penny) for the children. Also, it was a meeting place for saying hello to some people you hadn't seen for a long time. These few spare hours not spent walking the four or five miles to and from the store, or shopping, were spent visiting.

Another special occasion marked Steve and Grace's lives . . . A marriage! They were gaining their first son-in-law. He was John Zalaski, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alex Zalaski, of Lake Eliza. Stephania was simply overwhelmed by the young gentleman, so much so, that she comments today, "He follows in his father's footsteps". Their wedding and reception took place on November 22, 1951.

Stephania remembers most vividly the three and one half mile walk to and from Henley School because she and school were to have such a close relationship in her life. Her best experience going to school was when she used a 'caboose' which was a closed in sleigh pulled by a horse. That was real comfort.

Stephania completed grades one to nine at Henley School. She finished grades ten to twelve at the Myrnam High School. She received her teaching certificate in 1945 from the University of Alberta after completing a six month War Emergency Course.

Her first teaching assignment was at Krasme School, south of Two Hills. She taught grades one to five for sixty dollars a month while Miss Kassinian taught grades six to nine and was principal of their two room school. Miss Kassinian, for her efforts, received sixty-four dollars a month.

In September of 1946 Stephania entered her most cherished year of life. She went to teach at Krasme Hora School in the South Slava District between Myrnam and Derwent. It was here that she replaced her own grade nine teacher, Mr. W. Skoropadick, who had gone back to complete his university on a government sponsored veteran's allowance. She had nine excellent children in her class, an assortment of available bachelors to attend dances with and finally, a fiancée! But as the school term came to an end, her elation subsided. Her romance fell through and her parents brought her home.

Stephania picked up the pieces through the summer break and in the fall of 1947 started what was to be a ten year teaching stint at Lake Eliza School. The school now property of the Zalaski Family still stands, on its original location one mile east of Lake Eliza Lake. It was through this period that Stephania met John, a farmer whom she fell in love with and later married. She gained many fond memories in virtue of this one room school and its many students.

In 1957, the Alberta Government announced the centralization of education. This meant that all rural schools would close their doors and all schools would now be located within one town boundary. John and Stephania would move to St. Paul to allow Stephania to continue her teaching profession.

But other plans also surfaced. They were Allen on Jan. 17, 1958, Darwin on Nov. 17, 1960, and Dale on Christmas Day 1962. From June 1957 to Sept. 1961 Stephania stayed at home to raise a family. In 1961 the school lured her back to the classroom. She applied at the Glen Avon School in St. Paul and received a job teaching grade 2 students. After two years with a grade 2 class, Stephania acquired a grade one class. She presently teaches grade one students at Glen Avon.

When asked about her teaching career Stephania comments, "if there were another country school, I would be there today."

Although the Zalaski's live in St. Paul, John still farms his land at Lake Eliza. Allen, their oldest son graduated in April 1980 from the University of Alberta and is presently teaching Physical Education in Elk Point, Alberta. Darwin is at the University of Alberta studying in his fourth year of dentistry. Dale, who recently graduated from high school has entered the University of Alberta as a pharmacy student.

The house was a little quieter without Stephania, but on holidays the faces were much brighter as big sister came to visit. It wasn't too long afterwards that another wedding was to take place in the Proskiw household. This time it was their eldest son, John.

The snow was blowing in the air on November 12, 1953, when John was united with Mary Boratynec, daughter of Mike and Katherine. The reception followed the church service at both the Boratynec and Proskiw homes. It was the Proskiw home that John and Mary would reside in until spring.

John went to Henley School until the age of fifteen completing his grade seven. He missed a lot of class time due to his father's mild illnesses. With this in mind, he quit school and turned his full attention to his father's farm. John was drafted in 1938 but was luckily rejected by the draft board because of a childhood back injury which he had corrected in the early 1960's.

John came back home and spent the years from 1939 to 1953 helping his dad with the farm. He spent a brief time in the fall of '48 in Paul River' British Columbia working for Paul River Construction. But the work was slack and he considered the time more of holiday. The experience proved fruitful, because, upon returning, he joined up with a neighbor, Ludwig Gadowski, as half owner of Custom Sod Lumber, a local lumber mill. Now his summers were occupied with the family farm and his winters were taken up with the sawmill.

The period from 1939 to 1958 was unique from the harvesting aspect. Through this period of time, harvesting was a job for man, animal and threshing machine. John worked for the Steve Proskiw threshing crew. The work would involve getting up at 5:00 a.m. to feed, water and hitch up the team of horses, followed by breakfast at home. Then up onto the "hayrack" and down the trail to whoever's crop was to be harvested that day. The crew would go around the community helping one another with their harvesting as each of the neighbor's crops became ripe enough to thresh. Once in the field, one person would guide the team and load the rack by fork with bundles of grain by himself. Once loaded, it was back to the threshing machine to unload the bundles. As fast as two men could fork the bundles, the threshing machine would separate kernel from chaff. The whole process would continue till sunset. The crew had one break per day . . . dinner time! It was the responsibility of the farmer whose field was being harvested to provide a dinner meal. His wife, usually with the help of two or three of the nearby ladies, would prepare a meal to feed the nine-man crew. At dusk, it was time to head home, where, they would feed and water the horses, have supper, and get some rest for the next harvesting day. Depending on the weather, it would take approximately thirty of these type of days to complete harvest.

John and Mary spent a brief time with John's parents after they were married. One incident which occurred the day they were leaving lingers distinctly in their minds. They were to move to their present farmsite one half mile north of the North Saskatchewan River. Their sleigh was loaded and Grace had called everyone into the house for a farewell dinner. Everyone left his work in the garage except Willy. He stayed a little longer to stoke up the fire to keep the garage warm till they would return. When Willy came in, dinner was served. Lawrence, in a hurry to get back to his work in the garage, bolted down his dinner. He finished first, excused himself, and went back to the garage. Within seconds of leaving the table, he rushed back into the house yelling, "The garage is on fire".



The start of a work day — 1940, John Proskiw Operator.

Everyone spilled from the table, forgot their coats and grabbed a bucket. Together, they drained their well dry and cleared out a large area of snow, but saved the outdoor structure of the garage. The interior would require renovations. Steve and Grace were a very exhausted group as John and Mary pulled away in their sleigh.

John and Mary started their farm with a team of horses and some small farm equipment. The age of modern machinery was just around the corner. As early as 1958 the harvesting was split between the threshing machine and an ancestor of today's modern combine. By 1960, John was able to trade off his team of horses for a television set, a move he still regrets.

Other smiling faces soon joined John and Mary to create a clamorous household. Randy, on August 11, 1957, their first of four sons, followed by Brian on April 28, 1960. Gary on Feb. 12, 1962, and Larry on Sept. 16, 1964. John and Mary had their hearts set on a girl. Finally their wish came true when Sherlyne was born on June 25, 1966. Lastly, another girl, Karen, was born Feb. 2, 1975. The couple decided to stop after their sixth child was born.

Today, John and Mary avidly manage their farm with the aid of their son Gary, who recently graduated from high school. Brian still lives at home but works for the St. Paul Co-op Association. Randy was married to a Saskatchewan girl, Laurel Kortyniak, in August 1978. They presently reside in the Lac Bellevue area. Randy teaches school at the Regional High in St. Paul, while Laurel works as a printers helper with the St. Paul Journal. The remainder of the girls are at various levels of grade school in St. Paul.

Three months later, Steve and Grace were to give up another of their offspring. Rose had found her beau. On Feb. 11, 1954, Rose and Johnny Krankowski, son of Frank and Mary, from Lake Eliza recited the vows of marriage to one another.

Rose's best memories stem back to childhood days on the farm. She remembers helping to place the cutter box on the sleigh. These would enable the sleigh to break new trails easier than conventional sleighs.

Or when she would go partridge hunting with one of her brothers. Bullets were fairly expensive and hard to obtain. That left pure ingenuity to bring a wild gamebird home for supper. Rose would imitate the sound of a barking dog while one of her brothers would sneak around the partridge. The partridge would concentrate on the noise Rose was making only to find out that it was snared by a snare wire.

Other joyous moments were spent over the kitchen table. All eyes and ears were focused on the phone receiver in the middle of a bowl. It would be an episode of 'Ma Perkins' or 'Amos and Andy', just

sound, no pictures, yet all those gathered at the table saw the story as the plot unfolded.

A telephone line used to exist through barb wire fence lines. The tighter the line the stronger the signal that could be carried. Different types of phones also aided sound quality. Most families could not afford the price of a radio, therefore someone who wanted to listen to the radio would call a neighbor who had one. The neighbor would place the mouthpiece of his telephone next to his radio, in this way, sharing music and story with the community.

Another fond memory involved the straw stack. For the children, it was tremendous fun going up to the top of the stack and sliding down. The straw used to follow the children down to the bottom, spreading the base of the straw stack. Despite several lectures and punishments, the straw stack remained autumn headquarters for enjoyment.

Childhood whims come to pass and seriousness envelopes the individual. Such was the case when Rose met Johnny. They spent many years together building their farm. But none compare as much as do two days; April 6, 1957, the birthdate of Gerald and Feb. 3rd, 1965, the day Guidee joined the Krankowski household.

Guidee attends high school in Elk Point, Alberta. Gerald married Lucy Norman on July 14, 1979. He works as a farm products manager with the St. Paul Co-op Association along with working his dad's and his own farming operations. Johnny and Rose are full time farmers with part-time jobs at the Donald Hotel in St. Paul.



Modifications to the Lac Bellevue Hall by residents of the community.

It didn't take long to reduce the Proskiw household by half. Another was soon to leave the family nest. Elizabeth was married on July 16, 1954 to Walter Hasiuk.

Walter and Elizabeth moved into the Proskiw house in Myrnam. The home was not new to Elizabeth. During the spring and fall, the conditions of the North Saskatchewan River forced the children to stay for extended periods of time in Myrnam. The front part was rented out, while the children lived in the back. The rent would help to maintain the costs for the house. The children, namely Willy, Rose, and Elizabeth stayed here during various grade school years.

Walter was an ambitious young man and soon became Myrnam's first electrician. Elizabeth took on the role of secretary and housewife.

Three especially exciting moments in their lives were the additions to their family. Their first daughter Terry, on May 20, 1955. Dwayne, their only son on Dec. 1, 1965. Dwayne works as a draftsman in Calgary. Linda, also in Calgary, is a secretary for one of the multi-national oil companies.

Elizabeth and Walter cherish their leisure time because of the long hours needed to maintain their own business. Many joyous times were spent with the Proskiw family at various lakes around the Lac Bellevue area. Many family baseball and volleyball games were relished with their relations at the Lake Eliza school house or relation's farms.

Two boys were left at home to run the farm with their father. After three weddings in eight months, Steve and Grace were ready to settle into a quiet farm routine.

Two years later Willy was to disrupt this routine. It was his turn to get married.

Dances were the big social event of the day. This one particular dance stands out over the rest for Willy. He and Bill Krankowsky went to the dance together. They had a few cheers, just enough to loosen their inhibitions. Willy had been eyeing this girl for some time before he turned to Bill and asked "How do I find out who she is?" After some discussion, a doubtless Willy straightened up and proceeded up to her and asked her who she was. The girl replied "Wickman". Feeling elated with himself he came back to Bill and said "I know, she is a 'Workman'."

Close but not quite right!

On November 14, 1957, Willy and Phyllis Wichman, daughter of Freda and Engelbert Wichman, of Primrose, Alberta, were married.

Willy received the first eight years of his formal education in Henley School. He completed grades ten to twelve at New Myrnam School. It was at Myrnam School that Willy had many fond memories.

Willy, being a two finger typewriter expert, became editor of the school newspaper, the 'Myrnam Bugle'. His initiative helped start the first school yearbook. Willy was a busybody. This was further exemplified by his volunteer services to Uncle Zaborowski, the school janitor. Hours after school, Willy and his Uncle could be found sweeping floors, or cleaning brushes and boards without the aid of an electric light. To Willy, the hardest part of the janitor work was theatre night. This used to be Friday and/or Saturday night. All the desks had to be removed from the classroom and replaced with benches. After the show, the benches went out and in came the desks. A few beatings from the older boys and Willy could remember exactly where everyone else sat in class.

When Willy finished school he came back to the farm and put in five years in local construction. Even here Willy had some difficulties. His first day on the job came about when his brother-in-law came down with a severe stomach attack and had to be rushed to the hospital in Elk Point. The crew was working near Lake Eliza and needed someone to run the D-8 caterpillar tractor. One of the people on the crew remembered that Willy and John Proskiw were close by and could run the Caterpillar. It was threshing season, but Willy received the opportunity for the job. Some hassles occurred when the foreman showed up on site and saw Willy working the D-8. Willy won the ensuing verbal battle and ran the caterpillar until the original operator came back. Willy was later hired to work as a rock picker for 85¢ an hour with the crew on a regular basis. But being a road construction worker was not Willy's love.

After Phyllis and Willy were married, they moved onto their own farm. Today, they run a highly successful farming operation near Lake Eliza.

Along with the farm, Willy and Phyllis were blessed with three lovely daughters. Brenda on August 11, 1957, Elaine on February 11, 1964 and Laurie on April 2, 1969. Elaine and Laurie are in grade school at Elk Point. Brenda moved to Edmonton and is presently working as a secretary with the government. She is not a firm believer of all work, no play. With this in mind, the love bug struck and Brenda is engaged to be married in the summer.

The homestead held only three Proskiw's at this point; Lawrence, Steve and Grace. The addition of power, in 1961, was an important event on the farm. No more chores in the dark. A diesel furnace was to replace the old wood furnace. Longer night activity especially for Grace who loved sewing and always needed one more hour. Improved communication with the outside world came in 1967. The telephone arrived in the Lac Bellevue area. Lawrence continued to help his parents with their farm. In addition, he partook in various noteworthy part-

time jobs. One of which was being a cattle transport driver for Ernie Holobowich of Myrnam. The other was having a hand in the construction of the Myrnam Bridge over the North Saskatchewan River.

In 1968, Grace and Steve retired from the farm and moved to Myrnam. Lawrence remained to run the farm on his own.

Tragedy struck on the farm. On a bleak summer after, in 1969, at the age of 38 years, Lawrence passed away. The brain hemorrhage struck so fast and unexpectedly that the family was left stunned. After the funeral, Lawrence's brothers and sisters pooled their resources to finish harvesting the last crop their brother had sown into the earth.

In 1970, the second farm house, the one that saw the birth of the present Proskiw generation, burned to the ground. Despite a joint effort by the Myrnam and St. Paul fire departments and family and friends hauling water by hand to save the remaining structure, all that remained at 8:00 a.m. the following morning was a pile of burnt rubble.

On August 19, 1972, tragedy once again struck the Proskiw household. On a trip to the farm with their son and family, Steve and Grace were involved in a car accident. Steve diligently made sure his granddaughters, son, daughter-in-law and wife were all okay before he finally collapsed. Grace lay in a hospital bed, heavily sedated due to her injuries, for months before she found out the news. On August 20th, 1972, Steve was delivered to rest, in eternity.

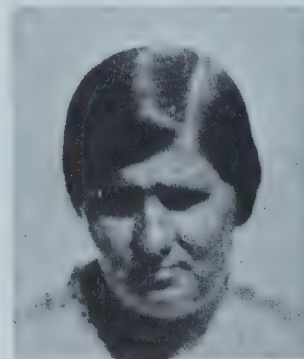
Today, Grace resides in their house in Myrnam. Here she is comforted by her friends and neighbors. She has plenty of time to do the activities she enjoys most, mainly sewing and practicing her green thumb.

DAN AND MARY PRYSUNKA FAMILY

by Julia (Prysunka) Lamoureux

Dan Prysunka came from Austria around 1909 and worked as a blacksmith in a steel factory in Winnipeg, Man.

During World War I, he made gun shells and other equipment for the army in that factory.



Mary Prysunka taken in 1932.



Dan Prysunka taken in 1919.



The Family of Dan and Mary Prysunka in 1932 standing in front of blacksmith shop. Back row: Annie, Mary (mother), Julia. Front row: Joe, Steve, Dan (father), Nick.

Mary Hrabec came from the Ukraine in 1909 and worked as a house maid in Winnipeg, Man.

Dan and Mary met there and got married. They had four children — Annie, Sophie, Nick and Julia while living in Winnipeg. After hearing that it was easy to acquire land in Alberta, Dan moved his family to Myrnam in 1921, where they built a house, two miles south of the present townsite. This is where Joe and Steve were born.

Dan also built a blacksmith shop and was a great help to many people in the district as he was very handy with tools. He helped build many houses around Myrnam and also built the Myrnam Hotel.

In 1930, Dan and his family moved to a homestead in Lac Bellevue, N.W. 1/4 28-56-9-W4th where he built another home and blacksmith shop. Mary also was a very handy woman around the district as she helped as midwife for many families and treated many for sickness and pain. She was also a great gardener and cook and it is said that she made the best bread in the countryside. She served many free meals to farmers who would come to bring parts for repair at the blacksmith shop. Dan worked very hard all his life and died of diabetes in 1935 at the age of 49.

Mary died December 25th, 1951, at the age of 63.

Annie married Arthur Dupuis. They had six children, Alcide, Lionel, Eddy, Laurette, Therese and Denis.

Sophie married Peter Farynowski. They had four children, Helen, Janice, Josephine and Frank.

Nick married Madeline Gowreika. They had four children, Diane, Darlene, Danny and Derald.

Julia married Solomon Foisy. They had four children, Nelson, Honore, Yvette and Lionel. Solomon died on Sept. 25, 1953.

Julia later married Robert Lamoureux and they had one child; Germaine.

Joe married Agnes Dovenport, and they had two children, Margaret and Danny.

Steve married Rosie Onyschuk. They had six children, Sidney, Scott, Sheldon, Sherwin, Stuart and Sharon.

Three sons of Dan and Mary, died when very young.

STEVE AND ROSE PRYSUNKA (ONYSCHUK) STORY

by Rose Prysunka

Steve was born at Myrnam, Alberta. He moved to Lac Bellevue district in 1929 and attended Lac Canard School until 1941. He lived in Lafond from 1945 to 1950. He then attended S.A.I.T. in Calgary from 1950 to 1953 and became an Auto Mechanic. He moved to St. Paul in 1950 and continued working as a mechanic.

He married Rose Onyschuk in 1954. Rose was born and grew up in Lac Bellevue. She attended Henley School. Then she came to St. Paul to work.



Rose and Steve Prysunka (Onyschuk) 25th. Wedding Anniversary.



Steve and Rose Prysunka with children and grandson. Back row L-R: Scott, Sid, Steve, Sheldon, Sherwin, Stuart. Front row L-R: Lorraine (Sid's wife), Rose, Jared (Sid's son), Sharon and Arlene (Sherwin's wife).

We raised a family of 6 children, 5 boys and 1 girl: Sid, Scott, Sheldon, Sherwin, Stuart and Sharon.

The oldest son Sid played hockey in St. Paul, then in Regina for the Pats, then he was traded to New Westminster Bruins and played later in Muskegon, Michigan. Sid married Lorraine Manning from New Westminster, B.C. They have one son, Jared. They live in North Delta, B.C. Sid works for Sears as Personnel Supervisor.

Sherwin married Arlene Drapaka and they live in Glendon. He is an apprentice carpenter.

Sharon works in Calgary. In 1978 she won first prize in the 1978 Edmonton Journal Literary Award for short fiction story.

Sheldon is a driller for Tri-City on oil rigs.

Stuart is in grade 9 at Glen Avon.

Steve has worked as a mechanic for Alberta Transportation for the last 20 years. Rose is employed at the Parkland Nursing Home in St. Paul.

DAVID AND GLORIA (NEE TERNOVOY) PUNDICK

by Gloria Pundick

I, Gloria, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mike Ternovoy of Foisy, Alberta went to school in Lafond till grade 12. Upon completion of school 1963, I was still undecided as to my career, so worked at the St. Theresa Hospital in St. Paul as a Ward Aide. After two months of shift work and a few traumatic experiences, I knew nursing was not meant as my vocation so I moved to Edmonton and attended McTavish Business College. After completion of a secretarial course, I returned to St. Paul and worked for LR Manning Real Estate. As restlessness prevailed, I soon returned to Edmonton in September



Back row: David and his wife Gloria. Front row: Clinton, Sherilee. Taken in 1978.

1965. I married David, son of Mr. and Mrs. Pundick of Brosseau, Alberta. David went to school in Two Hills till 1961 and after several varying jobs, obtained employment with the CN in Edmonton as a yardman. I was employed with the Toronto Dominion Bank as secretary in Edmonton. In 1972, we were blessed with a darling daughter Sherilee and again in 1974 we were blessed with a beautiful son, Clinton. As the children grew, so did our desire to return to the country and in 1979 we left Edmonton and built our home on an acreage, one mile from my parents' home. David is presently employed with L.M. International in St. Paul as a Service Manager and I am employed with the Toronto Dominion Bank in St. Paul as a Credit Assistant. David enjoys hunting and trail riding with his son and patiently awaits the day he can teach his son the art of stalking wild game.

THE HISTORY OF THE NICK RAWLUK FAMILY

by John and Irene Rawluk

Nick Rawluk was born on November 27, 1902 in the village of Orelec in Austria. He was the fourth child of Osafat and Anna Rawluk who were considered relatively wealthy farmers with approximately 10 acres of land. The other children included John, Maria, Tom, Dmytro and Sophia. Only brother Tom eventually of Mundare, Alberta and Nick moved to Canada. John, Maria and Sophie remained in the village of Orelec while Dmytro was killed in World War II.

Nick worked on the farm near Orelec during his youth and in 1921 (November 20) married Anna Lukenchuk, daughter of Mike and Maria, while in Orelec which became part of Poland. While in the old country, son Bill was born and then in 1925 Anna, Bill, Anna, her mother Maria Lukenchuk and her sister Helen, left the old country from Hamburg, Germany on a voyage to Canada. The cost of the trip was \$145.00 per person and the trip took one



Nick and Anna Rawluk.

and a half months. Shortly after Anna arrived in Canada, daughter Mary was born.

Nick stayed in the old country and served one year in the Polish army as a cannon specialist while Anna cleared brush in the Lac Bellevue district of Alberta to earn enough money to bring Nick to Canada. Nick finally met his family in the Lac Bellevue district on April 18, 1927, two years after he and Anna had been separated. In 1928, son John was born.

Nick and Anna cleared brush at a dollar a day for Anna and two dollars per day for Nick so that they could earn enough money to buy a farm. In 1929, Nick purchased the Melnychuk property (N.E. 24-56-9-W4) for \$400.00 and this included approximately 18 acres of cleared land. Part of the payment involved a half-crop share until the debt was all paid out. The hard work of picking rocks, roots and breaking new land helped to develop a mixed farm in the community. Family and neighbours helped each other during harvest and while putting up barns and houses. Some of Nick's neighbours included Alec Lakusta, Pete Rawluk, Louis Paley and Joe Plachta.

During the long cold winters, part of the entertainment in the community involved the local concerts or dramas in which Anna used to participate as an actress.

In November 1956, Anna and Nick retired to St. Paul and son John continued to operate the farm.

John, the youngest, married Irene Zuk in 1954 (children: Sandra and Leslie) and now reside in St. Paul. The oldest child, Bill married Elizabeth Lemiski in 1951 (children: Janice and Kathy) and now live in Edmonton. Mary married Dmytro Makowecki in 1942 (children: Clara, Clarence, Raymond and Tom) also live in Edmonton. The Nick and Anna Rawluk family consists of three children, eight grandchildren and ten great grandchildren.

Nick and Anna Rawluk represent the generation of immigrants who faced a good deal of adversity in coming to the new country. They left all that they had including family and a home to develop a new home and a new country. We as their children thank them for their sacrifices in making us a good home.

RENAULD FAMILY

by Rita Renauld

St. Brides



Three Generations of Renaulds — Rolland, Rene, Lucien.

Present owners of St. Brides store are Rolland (Red) and Rita Renauld. Rolland is the son of Lucien and Mirilda Renauld. He was born and raised in the Therien area. They sold their farm and moved to Edmonton. In 1975 they bought the St. Brides store from Mike Podloski. Lucien and Mirilda Renauld are retired and presently living in St. Paul. Their leisure time is spent at their cabin on St. Vincent Lake. The Renaulds celebrated their 40th Anniversary on April 3, 1980.



Mirilda and Lucien Renauld.

Rita is the daughter of Mike and Mary Jacura of Foisy. Rita's parents are presently living in St. Paul. They will be celebrating their 40th Wedding Anniversary May 15th, 1981. Rolland and Rita bought the store in Oct., 1976 from Rolland's parents. They later bought Looy's house next door. The Post Office was moved to the store Sept. 1, 1977 when Mr. Bernard McGonigal the former Postmaster retired.

Rolland and Rita have two children. Rena 9, Rene 8.

Rolland is kept busy with horses which he races in the Northern Pony Chuckwagon and Chariot Association, which he is President of. We also go to some of the parades in surrounding towns to advertise our store which is called "Red and Rita's Confectionery", St. Brides, Alta. In 1980 we received 2nd prize in the horse event in the St. Paul Parade.

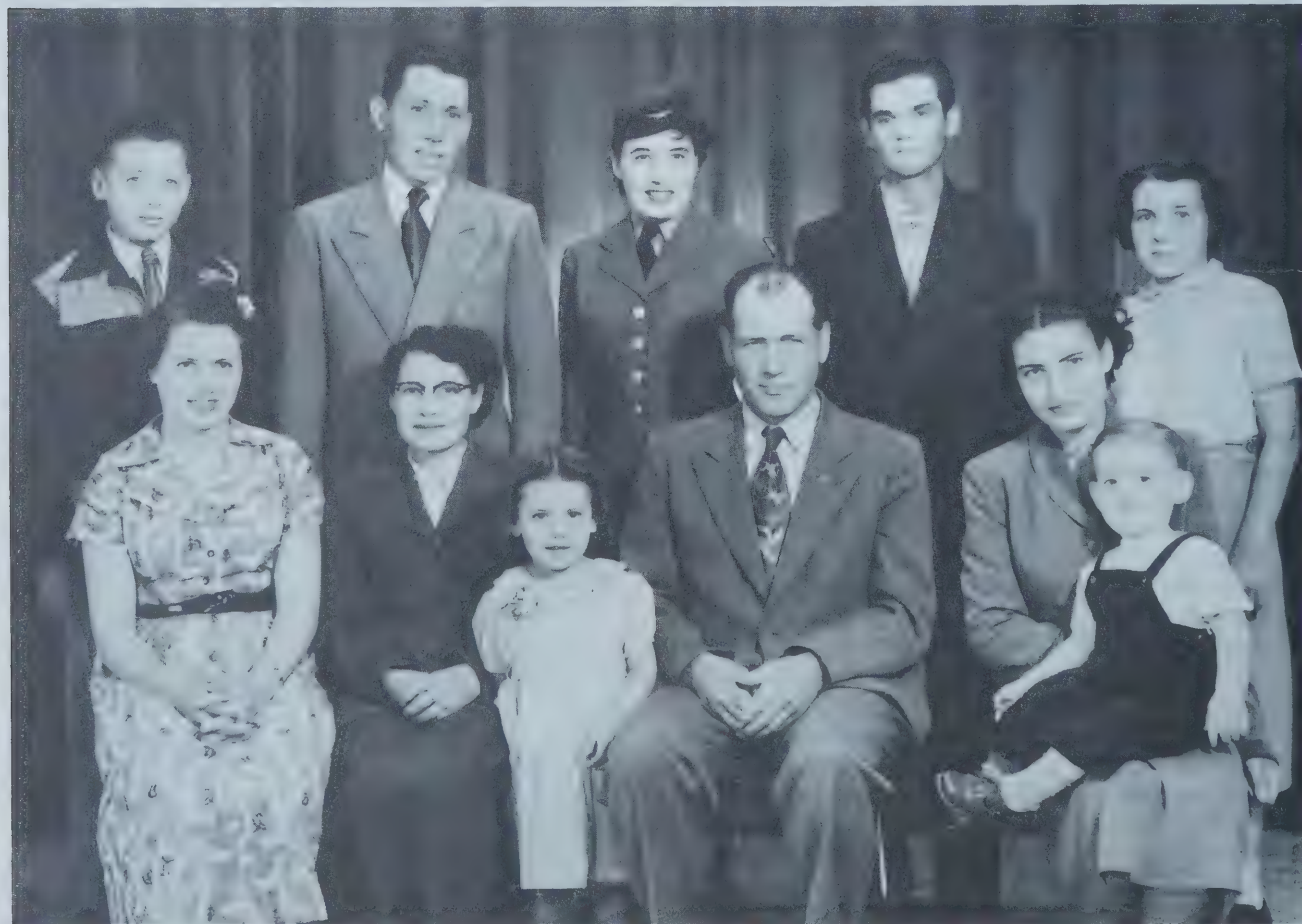
WILLIAM WALLACE RICE AND FAMILY

by Wallace and Helen Rice

On the 16th day of October, 1978, I Wallace Rice decided to write a brief history of my life.

I was born on a homestead at Ross Creek, Alberta, on the 25th of July, 1908. As I recall, my mother, my dad, sister Myrtle and myself, stayed at Ross Creek for about two years. From there we moved to Landis, Saskatchewan, where Dad worked as a baker for the local hotel. As I remember, we were at Landis for a few months. From there we moved to Wostock, Alberta, where Dad ran the steam engine for my grandfather Oliver. My grandfather had a sawmill for making lumber and a mill for grinding grain for feed and for making flour.

Sometime in 1911, my grandfather decided to move his equipment to Andrew. Dad still ran the steam engine for him. The next year Dad filed on a homestead in Cork and built a shack to stay in. The same year brother Fred was born at Andrew. The next year, 1913, we all moved into our new home in Cork which was across the road from the home I am living in now. We lived here for a year or better, until mother got sick and went to the hospital. We then moved back to Andrew where I stayed until 1920. Dad went back to running the mill again. I started school in the fall of 1915. We had about two miles to walk. I had lots of company as my cousins, the Kopps family, were living at Andrew. About the



Wallace Rice, Helene and Family, taken in 1956. Back row: L-R: Douglas, Henry, Milly, George Palmquist (son-in-law), Marilyn. Front row: Myrtle, Helene, Geraldine, Wallace, Gladys with son George.

first trouble I got into at school was when I was sitting on the school steps, which had a good sized puddle of water at the bottom. Truman, my cousin, kept running back and forth in front of me and teasing. I told him I would push him into the water if he did not stop; Well, he didn't stop and I pushed. The teacher had something to say about that. From then on, I didn't have much trouble in school. A couple of years later, the school was moved into town. It was about this time that my grandfather sold his mill and moved onto the farm, which was about one mile west of Andrew. This all took place about the year 1918. At the same time Dad joined the army. He was kept in for about six months and then discharged as medically unfit (flat-footed). After that Dad worked around Andrew as a blacksmith. He had his own shop which he had bought from a McGillvery. In the fall, Dad would go out and run the steam engine at threshing time.

In the fall of 1919, Dad bought a team of young horses, a wagon and harness, and enough hay to feed them through the winter. He got them broke to harness that winter. Next summer, right after school was out for the holidays, Dad and I headed for the homestead at Cork, leaving Myrtle and Freddie behind with their grandparents. We did not get all the way the first day, as the horses, being young, got pretty tired. We got as far as Saddle Lake Agency that night and Mr. Gullion put us up for the night. We headed out the next morning and arrived at our shack sometime before noon. To my surprise there was a family already there; the Pete Williams family. It turns out that Dad had decided to move in a couple of days early. Anyway, the Williams family moved out in a couple of days.

The summer passed away quickly and in the fall I went to school at Cork. I spent the next two years going to school and working on the homestead. In the fall of 1922, Dad decided to go threshing. We stayed at my grandparents again. Dad got his job running the steam engine at \$12.00 per day. I mentioned one day to my grandfather that I would like to go threshing to earn enough money to buy a bike. He found me a job pitching bundles on a big

steam outfit. I started at noon. When supper time came around, I went straight to bed; too tired to eat. In four or five days I was as good as any of them. I started on this job about the middle of October and worked until a few days before Christmas. At \$2.50 a day, I thought I was rich. You know, I never did buy that bike to this day.

We came back to the homestead and spent our money at an auction sale; on horses, harness, feed and other odds and ends. We did not go threshing anymore around Andrew. Dad and our neighbour, Charlie Bellerose, bought a small threshing outfit in 1923, as there was only one outfit to do the threshing around Ashmont and Cork. I will always remember when Dad and Bellerose brought the machine home from St. Paul. Mr. Bellerose took his team and wagon along to haul the gas and oil. We left St. Paul around noon with this 15-27 John Deere tractor and Sawyer Massey 24 inch separator. That tractor sure didn't travel very fast. It had just enough power to pull the separator but it put out smoke like a steam engine did. Not one of us knew anything about gasoline engines. Every few miles, we would stop and fill up with gas. By the time we got home, the day was about finished and that John Deere had used up about a barrel and a half of gasoline. Dad got off the tractor when he got home and said if that damn thing eats fuel like that, all the time, we will go broke the first week. Then he started tinkering with the carburetor. He managed to find the jet screw and he started turning until the smoke disappeared and the engine was running smoothly.

We batched there for a few years and had a blacksmith shop, sharpening shears, etc. We lived on bannock and tea most of the time. On July 14, 1930, I got married to Helene Calliou at St. Brides R.C. Church. I continued farming until 1940, when I absented myself for five years, during which time I served in the Canadian Army and spent three of those years in active duty overseas. I was discharged honorably from the forces with Class "A" papers as a mechanic. Returning to the farm after the war, I was one of the original organizers responsible for the building of the Cork Hall which is a great asset for the district. My dad was one of the builders who worked on the hall.

We had nine children, four boys and five girls. William and Stanley died in 1938 and 1940; Henry born April 5, 1931, living in Surrey B.C., married Joan Hunter, had three children Dianne, Bradley and Billy. Gladys, born December 28, 1932, married George Palmquist, living in Owlseye, had seven children, George, Darlene, Raymond, Carol, Louise, Nolan and Helen. Margaret (Milly) born January 4, 1936, living in Innisfail, married Donald Haines, had three children, Karen, Diane and Alan. Myrtle, born September 17, 1937, living in Vermilion, married Nick Poburan, had three children



Andrew school, Around 1918. Wallace in back row "X" with Myrtle in front.



Rice homestead with new house, 1976.

Deborah, Darrel and Donna. Douglas, born November 9, 1939, living at Fort McMurray, married Helen Horiachka, had five children, Darren, David, and Douglas (twins), Cheryl and Craig. Marilyn, born January 12, 1942, living at Bruderheim, married Hector Ouellette, had one child, Micheal. Geraldine, born March 27, 1951, living at Bruderheim, married Gerard Richer, have three children, Nicole, Robert and Bradley.

We lived by ourselves for nine years, then Wallace became ill and passed away on November 23, 1978.

ADRIEN ROBINSON

by Adrien Robinson

I, Adrien Robinson, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Edward Robinson, pioneers who came to Alberta in 1905. I went to school at Lafond, Alberta, travelling to school on horse back a distance of about 3 miles. I went to church at Lafond, and was altar boy for some years. At the age of 22, I married Arlie Yettaw, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alex Yettaw.

We had a quarter of land near my parents, which we cleared, cutting brush and plowing the land. We lived with my parents for 2 years. Then we sold our



Adrien Robinson Family, Front row: Joanne, Richard, David.
Back row: Arlie, Adrien and Marcel.

land back to my dad, and bought Foisy Store, for which we paid \$900.00. We borrowed \$100.00 to put stock in. There was a post office inside the store and we got paid \$28.50 per month to operate it.

About 2 years later, I bought a gas tank and truck and hauled gas from Calgary to St. Paul. I would make one trip a day leaving Foisy, early in the morning. Later on, I bought a gravel truck, and got a job wherever I could, hauling gravel for highway construction. After 12 years at the store we sold out, and bought a piece of land near Lac Sante, from John Eskow. We farmed for 10 years, then moved to St. Paul, and built a house where we live today. I hauled cement blocks for many buildings in St. Paul and district, also sand and gravel.



Foisy Store 1940. L-R: Adrien and Arlie Robinson (owners). Cecile Bolduc, Virginia Chornohus, Will and Pat Yettaw, Alderic Foisy and Homidas Paradis.

In 1970, I started operating my own taxi business, namely St. Paul Taxi. I have been very successful with this business. My wife works at Sunny Side Manor, our Senior Citizens' Home. She worked there for 18 years starting 2 years after it opened up in 1960.

We had a family of five children:

Shirley married Bill Yoki. Shirley works at the CNIB, University Hospital. They have three children, Annita 18, Quinton 15, and Owen 11, Bill works at MacDonald Consolidated Wholesale in Edmonton.

Marcel married Pat Patterson of Ashmont. They have a family of 4 children, Michael 15, Sheila 13, Melonie and Jeremie 7. Marcel lives in Prince George, B.C. and works at the Shelley B.C. Sawmill. Pat works in a local department store.

Richard married Janet Pulkrabek daughter of Ray and Marg. Pulkrabek. They have 2 children, Tammy 10 and Douglas 4. Richard is part owner of Robinson & Labrie Contractors. They have a very successful, cement business. Janet is a C.N.A. (nursing aide) She works at St. Paul Health Clinic.

David married Audrey Lapatak. They have one child Seannan now 2 years. David is foreman for Robinson & Labrie Contractors. Audrey is working at Park Land Nursing Home. They also manage the North Wind Apts. in St. Paul, where they reside.

Our youngest is Joanne. She is a dispatcher for St. Paul Taxi.

ALPHONSE ROBINSON

by Juliette Robinson



Wedding Picture of Alphonse Robinson and Marie Louise Marin who were married November 20, 1916.

In 1906 George and Wilheminie (Blanchette) Robinson came from Gaspé to settle at Lafond Alberta. They had nine children: Wilheminie, Edouard, Edmond, Ida, Octave, Alphonse, Maria, Leonie, and Isidore. Two are still living, Maria Foisy of Parkland Nursing Home in St. Paul and Leonie Caron in Calgary. When George retired, Alphonse carried on the farming. He also raised cattle and horses. At one time, they had 40 head of horses. He travelled to Vegreville by wagon to get supplies. In 1941 he bought a purebred percheron stallion from Mr. St Hilaire of Duvernay for \$450.00. In the fall, he went on the threshing crew, as separator man, for Albert Désaulniers and later for Jos Désaulniers. On November 20, 1916 he married Marie Louise Marin, born May 3, 1900. Her father passed away when she was very young and she was raised by an uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Philippe



50th Wedding Anniversary, Alphonse and Marie Louise Robinson. Back row: Germaine Malo, Jeanette Vaillancourt, Emile, Raymond, Denise Robinson, Diana Foisy. Front row: Delia Moisan, Mr. and Mrs. Robinson, Philip. Nov. 1966, Prince George, B.C.

Henley. She came to Alberta with them in 1913. She had a stroke in 1969 and has been an invalid since. She presently resides at Simon Fraser Private Hospital in Prince George, B.C. In 1972 Alphonse came to visit his children and grandchildren in Lafond. On the day following his arrival, he had a stroke and died shortly after midnight in St. Theresa Hospital in St. Paul.

They had nine children:

Delia married Antonio Moisan. They had 3 daughters who died in infancy and one son, Bernard. Antonio passed away June 1, 1979.

Philip married Juliette Journault. They have eight children.

Emile married Kathleen Clark. They have 2 sons, Sid and Gary.

Germaine married Aime Malo. They have 3 children — Raymond, Marguerite, Doris.

Denise married Peter Robinson. They have eight children — Therese, Norman, Robert, Peter,



George and Wilheminie (Blanchette) Robinson.

Paul, Brenda and identical twins Pauline and Paulette.

Diana married Victor Foisy. They have eight children — George, Raymond (deceased), Bernard (deceased), Lenard, Linda, Roger, Cloriss, Albert and Allen.

Raymond married Joan McKinley. They have 3 children — Caroline, David and Dean.

CAMILLE AND ALMA ROBINSON

by Alma Robinson



Wedding picture of Camille and Alma Robinson, May 15, 1951.

Camille and Alma Robinson were married in 1951 by Father Lerouge in Lafond. Then they lived on a farm for quite a few years. Six years ago, in 1974 they moved to St. Paul. Camille is now working for C.N.R. in Ashmont. Alma is working for St. Paul Co-op. They raised a family of six. Marguerite is now Hebert and lives on a farm in Glendon. Maurice is working in Prince George, B.C. Albert is



Five Generations taken in 1973. Mrs. Albina Malo Great great grandmother, Mrs. Annette Robinson Great grandmother, Mrs. Alma Robinson Grandmother, Mrs. Hebert mother, Karen Hebert daughter.

now a lawyer and works in Spruce Grove. Lillian married Ray Theroux is now working for Indian Affairs in St. Paul. Doris is working for Beaver Lumber in St. Paul. Therese is working for Holton & Langager in St. Paul. Camille and Alma have 7 grandchildren.

MR. AND MRS. EDMOND ROBINSON (NEE MARIE LAFRENIERE)

by Henri Robinson

Edmond Robinson 1890-1939.

Edmond was one of those pioneer entrepreneurs that characterized this particular era.

His wife, (nee Marie Lafreniere) was animated of similar spirit, she was also one of these ladies dedicated to the well-being of her family and to the welfare of her community.

Mr. and Mrs. Robinson adopted two lovely girls Lucille and Gabrielle. Edmonton developed his homestead, which was located two miles south of Lafond. His health was failing, because of the dusty condition of farming, so Edmond sold his land to Florian Theroux.

Edmond went into business as a storekeeper. He began a store at the present site of Lafreniere's Store. He also became the postmaster of Lafond. A trucking business was also started by Edmond, some of his drivers were a Mr. Bergeron, and Elphège Lafreniere. Edmond also went into a livestock buying venture in company with Anthony Desaulniers.

Because of his failing health, Edmond sold his store business to Mr. Achille Lafreniere. A year later he was called by the Master.



The Edmond Robinson Family: Marie, Edmond, Gabrielle and Lucille.

EDOUARD JOSEPH ROBINSON 1887-1976

by Henri Robinson

In 1906, at the age of eighteen, Edouard, son of George and Wilheminie Robinson, with his family, undertook the long journey to Western Canada from Mont Louis, Gaspé, Quebec. The purpose of this trip was to begin a new life. These men of the sea and the forest were well equipped with courage and great faith in Divine Providence to face the rugged pioneer life that awaited them. Coming off the train in Vegreville, the family first met Mr. Emile Belisle, who informed them about the stage that would take them to their destination, Lafond, where Uncle Nazaire Robinson had already settled.

Once the family settled down on a homestead, Edouard, being one of the eldest of the family, went to work to supplement the family's income. He went as far as Jasper to work on a surveyor's gang. He worked in the Fort Saskatchewan area at the brick factory. He also found employment on farms around Lamoureux.

It is while working in Lamoureux that Edouard met his future bride-to-be, Miss Alphonsine Demers.

Alphonsine Robinson (nee Demers) 1893-1967.

Miss Alphonsine Demers was the daughter of Adrien Demers, a pioneer of Lamoureux, Alberta. The young family had moved to Lamoureux in 1896 when Alphonsine was only three years old. They came from Summerset, Wisconsin, U.S.A. Alphonsine grew up in Lamoureux. She attended a little country school by the name of St. Eugene. In those days, once schooling was over, girls would work at home and also would work for neighboring people. She met Edouard Robinson, her future husband in Lamoureux while he worked in the vicinity, with her eldest brother.

Edouard and Alphonsine began homesteading



Golden Jubilee Feast (1963), Edouard Robinson and his wife Alphonsine, Leonie Caron (nee Robinson).



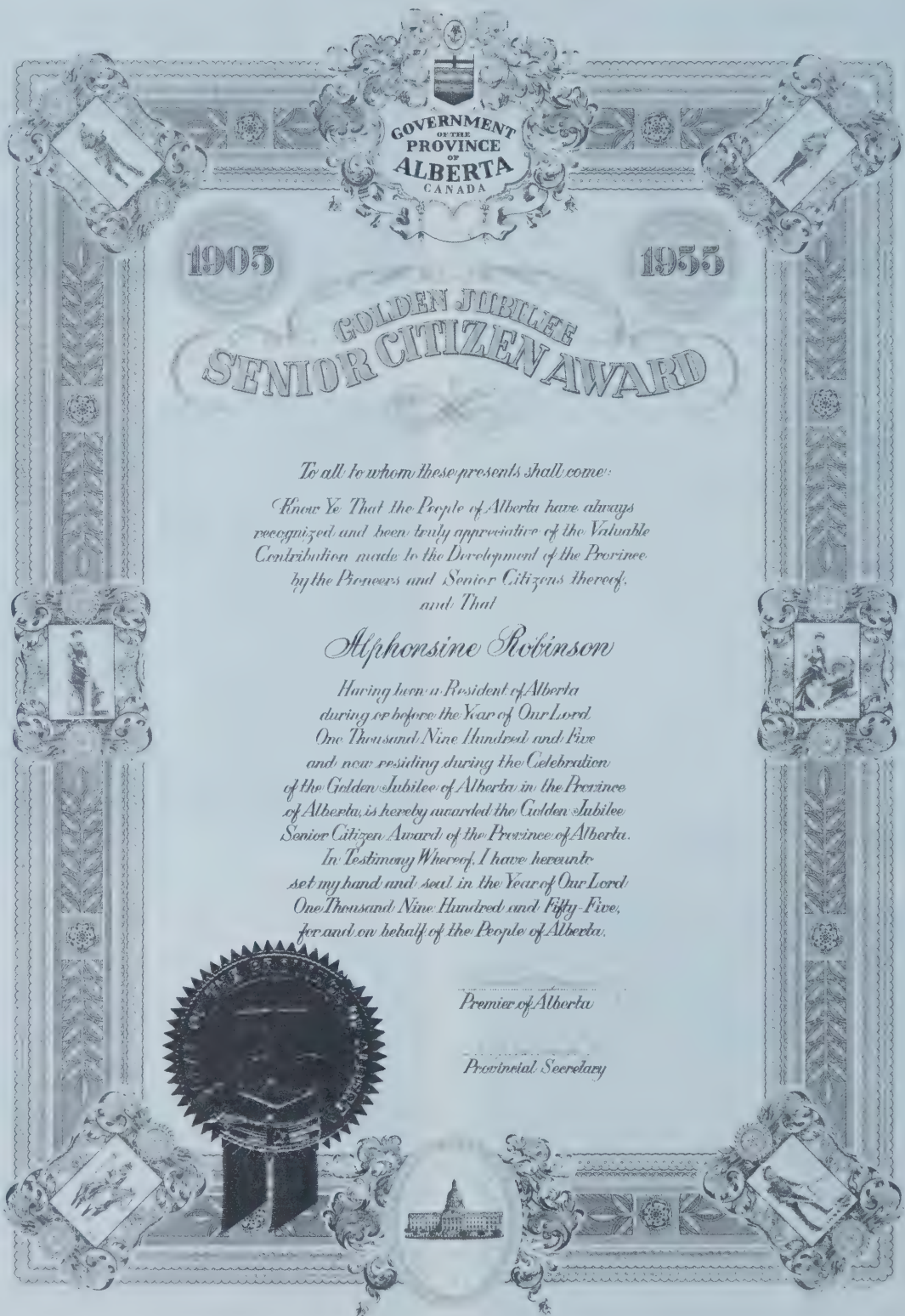
Family gathering on occasion of dad's funeral — Ed Robinson. Front row: Adrien, Marie Rose (Hurtubise), Aunt Maria Foisy, George. Back row: Alex, Camille, Henri, Roland, Arthur.



Golden Anniversary of Edouard and Alphonsine Robinson. Front row: Henri, Marie Rose (Mrs. O. Hurtubise) Alfred, Alex, Roland. Back row: Pete Demers in background, a little flower girl, Adrien, Alphonsine, Edouard, George, Camille.

in 1913 after their marriage. It was in a little log shack, covered with sod, in which their family began to bloom. It is in the midst of joys, hardships and disappointments, that the family flourished. What a great joy it was to move into the new home in 1924. With a good shingle roof, there would be no need to take refuge under the table during a heavy rainfall.

Considering the distance from the stores, the money available, it is no surprise these pioneers did learn to manufacture many of their needs, right at home. Shirts, pants, socks, dresses and mittens were some of the items made at home. No wonder these ladies became so efficient. Their hands busy knitting, even while teaching the Lord's prayer to a young one. Summer and winter the men were busy. Summer was a time to look after the farm. Winter was a time, in many cases, to supplement the farm's



Senior Citizen Award Alphonsine Robinson.



Edouard Robinson and his prized horse, in Lafond, beside his brother Edmond's store, in 1938. In the background is the store built by Mr. Manta, later operated by Mr. Rouillard, Robert Côté and others.

income, by spending months at a time in a lumber camp.

If life was demanding for the parents, it was also for the children. In many cases during the spring and the fall rush, twelve, thirteen or fourteen year old children would take a month's leave from school to help with the seeding and harvesting. In case of an accident, too, children became adults overnight. When dad lost two fingers, older brother George had to take over the operation of the farm. At fourteen, it was quite a feat for a young lad.

Of course, in between jobs, people had time for social gatherings. In private homes, the young people would dance and sing from nightfall till early morning. Music was usually supplied by local fiddlers, harmonica players, accordion and guitar players. One of these social gatherings could be summarized something like this: Dancing till midnight, lunch, joke telling and singing for an hour, then more dancing sometimes till five or six in the morning.

Spiritual life was a priority. To go to church from the homestead to Brosseau . . . in a wagon . . . there was a need for great faith. To attend a retreat daily, travelling in a buggy, when rain was falling by the pailful, took a great faith. To raise eleven children, to provide the food they needed and the other necessities of life, required a great deal of courage. Yes, armed with prayer, faith, hope, and charity, this couple did their best to give their children a good life. May the good Lord have welcomed them in his Heavenly Home, as well as they have welcomed us, their eleven children, into theirs.

Edouard and Alphonsine welcomed eleven children into their home. As midwife, Aunt Joseph (Wilheminie) Henley, did an excellent job of delivering the eleven.

The names of the children are:

George married Aurore Gill, a chosen daughter Georgette.

Adrien married Arlie Yettaw, they have 5 children: Shirley, Marcel, Richard, David, Joanne. Arthur married Martha Filiotreault, they have 7 children: George, Georgette, Arthur Jr., Diane, Robert, Rose Marie, Daniel.

Alfred (deceased) Dec. 26, 1969.

Maurice married Cecile Gill, they had 2 children: Edmond and Jeannine. Maurice (deceased) Jan. 30, 1948.

Marie Rose married Ovide Hurtubise, they have 11 children: Victor, Diane, Margaret, Jeannine, Albert, Roland, Henri, Beatrice, Pamela, Paul, Denis.

Camille married Alma Robinson, they have 6 children: Maurice and Marguerite (twins), Albert, Lillian, Doris, Therese.

Alexandre married Helen Robinson, they have 6 children: Annette, Raymond, Susan, Paul, Leo, Denise, Bernard.

Roland married Germaine Gill, they have 6 children: Clement, Diane, Vivianne, Gilbert, Claude, Robert.

Henri married Pierrette Theroux, they have 9 children: Laurette, Jean Marie, Jacques, Gerald, Lorraine, Lucie, Lise, Line, Marc.

Donat (deceased) March 30, 1937 (14 months).

ERNEST AND SIMONE ROBINSON

by Simone Robinson (nee Beaudoin)

On July 1, 1953, Laurent E. Robinson and his wife Jeannette (Journault) Robinson were blessed with the birth of their eleventh child, a boy, whom they named Ernest Philippe. At the age of six years, Ernest started school in Lafond and continued there until the end of grade nine. It then became necessary for him to travel to St. Paul by bus to continue his education. He completed grade 10 at Racette School and grades 11 and 12 at the St. Paul Regional High School, graduating in 1972.



Wedding picture of Simone and Ernest Robinson November 15, 1975.

After graduation, Ernest set out for Edmonton in search of employment. He found work as an auto-body mechanic, and worked there for 9 months.

It was during these early months on his own that Ernest met Simone Beaudoin, daughter of Ernest and Therese (Laplante) Beaudoin, originally of Bonnyville. Simone was the eighth of their eleven children. She was born in Bonnyville on June 21, 1957. The family moved to Edmonton in 1965, so that Mr. Beaudoin could seek employment that would provide for the needs of his large family. Simone and Ernest became friends and began dating in March, 1973. It was at this time that Ernest decided to leave the autobody industry and earn his living as a carpenter. However, he had worked a few short months at his new career when the death of his older brother, Real, brought him back to Lafond. He worked with his father till November 1973, then returned to Edmonton to pursue his career in carpentry.

In January 1974, Ernest got a job as a serviceman for industrial camp trailers. This gave him the opportunity to travel extensively through the Canadian Arctic and also visit Toronto and Montreal. He kept this position until January, 1976.

On November 15, 1975 Ernest Robinson and Simone Beaudoin were married. They made their home in Edmonton. In January, 1976 Ernest began a new job with a home building contractor, where he worked until May, 1979.

Ernest and Simone then decided to move to St. Paul, where Ernest started his own business, doing renovations and various other types of woodwork. As business showed promise, Ernest and Simone decided to settle permanently in the area. They bought a lot in Lafond and set up a trailer for their home.

On April 3, 1981, Simone and Ernest were blessed with the birth of their triplets; Denis, Richard, Danielle.



Richard, Danielle and Denis Robinson born April 3, 1981 to Simone and Ernest. Picture taken April 5, 1981.

FRANCIS AND ANNETTE ROBINSON

by Annette Robinson

Francis Robinson and Annette Malo were married on April 9, 1928, in Lafond Church. They lived on the farm until the fall of 1957, when they moved to St. Paul. One very sad event of their life happened one Sunday afternoon, about three miles



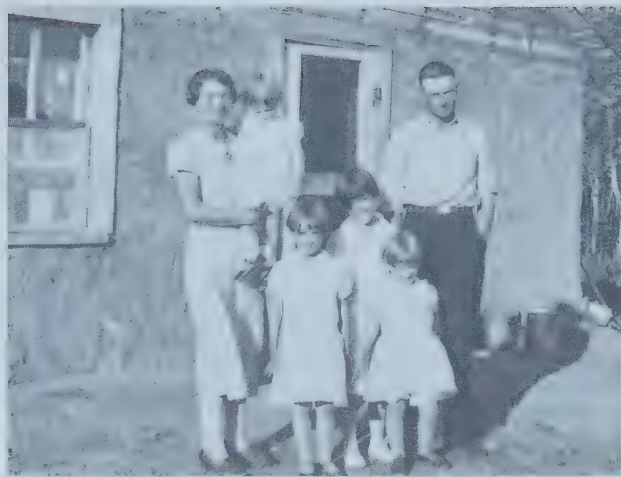
Wedding Picture of Francis and Annette Robinson. Taken April 9th, 1928.

west of St. Paul, on Highway 28, when their son, Eugene, 16 years old, was killed instantly in a freak single car accident. On the day of the funeral, Mrs. Therese Theroux, principal of Lafond School, took all the students out to the Robinson residence, four miles west of Lafond. They lined the road that the funeral procession took to go to the church, as a mark of their sympathy with the bereaved family and also as a symbol of their grief, at the loss of a classmate.



Four generations: Standing: Francis Robinson. Seated: his grandmother, Mrs. Fortin, his mother, Mrs. Robinson holding Albina, his oldest daughter.

In St. Paul, Francis worked as a bartender and Annette also worked at the hotel, caring for the rooms. Later they took care of the Lakeland Motels, until Francis' illness forced them to quit this job. Francis passed away in 1962 at the age of 62 years. Annette, now 74 years old, lives in a Heritage Home in St. Paul and is enjoying her retirement years very much.



Taken in front of their house in 1953 or 1954. Back row: Annette holding Helene, Francis. Front row: Alma, Albina, and Irene.

Francis and Annette had a family of 11 children. Albina married Lionel Gagné in 1946, and they are now living in St. Paul.

Eugene died at the age of 7 in 1937.

Alma married Camille Robinson in 1951. They are now living in St. Paul.

Irene married Germain Lafrenière in 1951. They are now living in St. Paul.

Marie died at birth in 1933.

Helene married Alex Robinson in 1952 and is now living in Edmonton.

Eugene died at the age of 16 years.

Jeanne married Hector Hamel in 1957. They are living in Grande Prairie.

Henriette married Roland Poulin in 1959. They are living in Prince George, B.C.

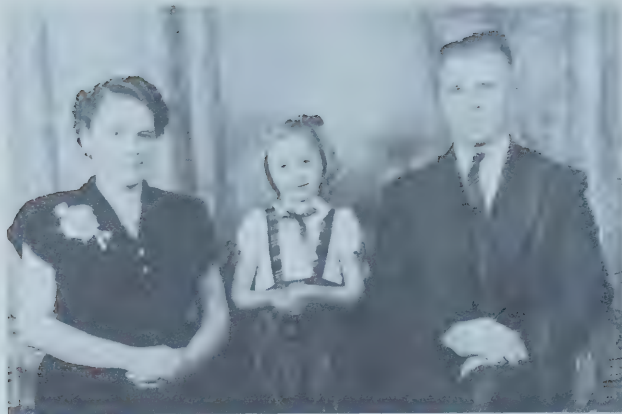
Germaine married Noel Hébert in 1960. They are living in Grande Prairie.

Lionel married Frankie St. Jean in 1966.

GEORGE E. ROBINSON

by George E. Robinson

I was born March 28, 1914, in a log house plastered with mud and the roof made of slabs, hay and dirt. I was 10 years old when my dad built his first frame house. I helped digging the cellar with a team of horses and a scraper. As I was the oldest of the family, my mother got me to help milking the cows. I started to go to school when I was 8 years old. When I got to be 10 years old, I had to stay home, to help dad in the spring, for a month, to do the spring work and I quit school and stayed home all the time, working with dad on the farm. At that time we had a half section of land. When I was 15 years old, we bought another quarter section of land which was across the fence from my dad. Later when I got to be 19, I happened to meet a girl named Aurore Gill. She used to come in the neighborhood to work for Mrs. Lafreniere, who was her sister. As



Aurore Robinson (nee Gill) Georgette and George E. Robinson.

everything went well, we decided to get married. In the fall of 1937, November 16, we got married and settled on the farm across the fence from dad. We lived there for 10 years then sold this farm to my brother, Camille, in 1948. We bought a half section in Lafond. As we did not have children of our own, in 1945, we adopted a little girl, Georgette. She was 14 months old and we loved her as our own. She went to school in Lafond and later was married to Henry Lafreniere. They have four lovely children, three girls and one boy. In 1962 I sold my farm to the Lafreniere boys, Victor and Raymond, and we moved to St. Paul. I had a job at Smyl Motors. I worked there for 2 years and then I went on the C.N.R. for five years. I quit the railroad and came back to Smyl Motors and worked for them until I retired, a total of 11 years.



George and Aurore Robinson retired in St. Paul — 1980.



George Robinson and his black team — 1960.

GEORGE AND WILHEMINIE ROBINSON

by grandson Henri Robinson

George Robinson (1862-1928) and his wife, Wilheminie (1863-1939) homesteaded in the Lac Sante area.

In 1905, the Robinson Family undertook that western trip to Alberta, where George and his wife and children were to live in the Lac Sante area. They raised five boys and four girls. The girls were Wilheminie (Mrs. Jos. Henley), Ida (Mrs. Breland), Maria (Mrs. Elzear Foisy), Leonie (Mrs. Caron). The boys were: Edouard, Edmond, Alphonse, Octave, and Isidore.

In 1981, two are still living: Mrs. Maria Foisy who is in the Parkland Nursing Home in St. Paul and Mrs. Leonie Caron who is living in Calgary.

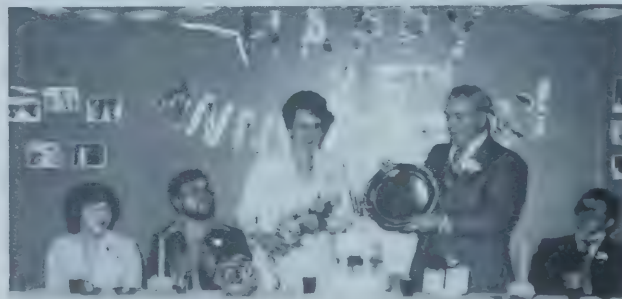


George Robinson and Wilheminie Robinson (nee Blanchette).

MR. AND MRS. HENRI ROBINSON

by Henri Robinson

I, Henri Robinson was born February 29, 1932. Aunt Joseph Henley was called to the home of Edouard Robinson, to be midwife on the occasion of my birth. I grew up to be a sturdy young lad. An individual had to be rugged and tough in order to survive. For example, winter was a difficult time for



Twenty Fifth Anniversary of Henri and Pierrette Nov. 19, 1980.



Henri Robinson's Family. Front row: L-R: Laurette, Marc, Lorraine. Middle row: Lise, Pierrette, Henri, Allen Fodchuk, Lorraine's husband. Back row: Line, Jean, Gerald, Jacques, Lucie. Taken in 1980.

children attending school. To walk, or to ride horse-back three miles to school when it was 45 to 50 below zero was mighty cold for the nose.

At school, children had to invent their own games. Hockey was a simple game played with sticks cut from small trees, the puck an empty tomato can. Slides were made by spreading water on the ground. Many times stars were seen when one's skull collided with the ice. Why no one ever got killed, God only knows.

Because of outstanding teachers, I managed to complete grade nine in Lafond. I finished my High School at St. Paul Public and College St. Jean. Finally I obtained a B. Ed. from the University of Alberta. This might appear very simple, but it was quite a task for a little country rat. I remember when I was in grade nine, I was getting ready to go to school when Dad came to get me to go and thresh, so off I went. I was away from school for more than a month. In those days, a group of farmers threshed their crops with one machine on a rotation basis. One machine might thresh twelve or more different farmers' crops. Therefore, when threshing time came along, harvesting was more important than school. On many occasions, fourteen-year old boys would become part of the threshing crew.

If I developed a liking for school, I believe it is something that my mother said. She really admired people with schooling, and had mentioned how she would have liked to go to school in her youth but was prevented from doing so because of pioneering conditions.

Finally I reached manhood. As I admired God's creation, one day I happened to notice a neighbor's daughter . . . later I invited her to come and share the house I had started to build and she accepted. So here I present Miss Pierrette Theroux.

I, Pierrette Robinson (nee Theroux) was born at St. Joseph Hospital, Vegreville, Alberta, July 1,

1938 oldest daughter of Armand and Therese (Bessie) Theroux. I grew up on a farm in the Ben's Lake area, very close to the Vermilion River. I attended Ben's Lake, Warwick, St. Martins in Vegreville, Two Hills and Lafond School. When I was on the farm, we experienced two spring floods, one in 1940 and one in 1951. Both times the house and most of the other buildings, were surrounded with water. It was like living on an island. Our only means of transportation to higher land was the tractor and even that was dangerous as washouts developed overnight. In 1951, we had moved out to higher land; the family, the chickens and the cattle, the family's clothing, food, cooking utensils, etc. We had moved in the night, as the river was rising very rapidly. By morning, we couldn't have got out so easily. We had to be away for over three weeks as there were washouts all over the roads, and the bridge was not considered safe. What an experience!

After leaving school, I worked out at threshing time and helped at home until I was married.

Living Together on The Farm.

November 19, 1955 was the beginning of married life for us. Presiding the ceremony at the marriage was Father Robert Lerouge. After our honeymoon, we installed ourselves in the house Henri had built the previous year. Henri had cut the logs which were made into lumber on his farm.

The first winter at the farm was a blizzard from the beginning to the end, (1955). The roads were closed with high drifts of snow. Roads were opened through the fields, but were closed almost as soon by constant storms.



Queen of Sugar Party — Laurette Robinson, April 1974. With Mr. Raymond Albert, President of St. Paul A.C.F.A. placing cape on her shoulders.

Slowly the farm site was improved; a car and tractor garage, a cowbarn, electricity, running water, two large granaries were added.

Since the farm did not bring in the revenues necessary to live and to develop into a viable enterprise, Henri went working. He worked one winter on the C.N.R. Later he went to university and started to teach.



Coal-oil lamp age,
Until 1962, the good
old oil lamp lighted
our home.

While all this was happening the family was growing. So far we were blessed with many events; births, baptisms, confirmations, graduations, and a marriage. During the holidays, short trips to the West Coast to visit Auntie Rose and Uncle Arthur were always anticipated. Other thrilling events were to see Laurette crowned "Reine de la Cabane a Sucre" Queen of the Maple Sugar Party.

The annual Sugaring-off Party of the St. Paul ACFA was held on Sunday at the Recreation Centre, April, 1974.

Then following the crowning of the Queen with the crown being firmly placed on the head of Laurette Robinson of Lafond by Association President Ray Albert. Miss Robinson qualified for the provincial competition held by the French Association each year in Edmonton.

Another occasion was when Lorraine was running in the Rodeo Queen Contest in St. Paul in 1977.

It is hardly believable, but already we have reached November 8, 1980 when our children, relatives and friends gathered together to celebrate our Silver Wedding. It was a joyful occasion for us to be reunited all together; and as the song goes, "Oh! Oh! Oh! How good is the Lord, I never will forget what he has done for me." These words somewhat



On our way to Vancouver
Island on a Ferry Boat.
1963, Pierrette, Victor
Hurtubise, Florence
Hurtubise (wife). Children
are: Jacques, Laurette and
Jean Robinson.

express our gratitude for the blessings the Good Lord bestowed upon us, for the good community in which our children grew, and for the friends and relatives who helped to make our life easier and successful.

Our family consists of nine children:

Laurette born 1956 now teaching in Fort McMurray, having obtained her Bachelor of Education before starting her teaching career.

Jean-Marie born (1957) helping in the farming enterprise.

Jacques born (1958) is working on a farm.

Gerald born (1959) is a journeyman plumber.

Lives in Brooks, Alta.

Lorraine born (1961) completed a legal secretary course. She is married to Allen Fodchuk and lives in Brooks, Alta.

Lucie born (1963) completing her high school in 1980-81.

Lise born (1964) she is in Sr. High School.

Line (1967) in Junior High School.

Marc (1971) is in his elementary grades, enjoying his fishing experiences.

JOSEPH ROBINSON

by his son George Robinson

Joseph Robinson, born in Hull, Quebec in 1884, an only child of Odile Barnier and Nazaire Robinson. He moved to Lamoureux, Alberta in 1901, met and married Marie Fortin.

Joseph and Marie lived in Lamoureux (near Fort Saskatchewan) from 1903 to 1905, but filed a homestead in 1904 in the Lafond district. Section 34, Township 56, Range 11, 3 miles west of Lafond. He built a log cabin, did some breaking, but went back to Lamoureux for the fall of 1904.

Their first son, Francis, was born in Lamoureux in 1904. In February of 1905, they moved to their log cabin in Lafond. There was no snow on the ground at that time of year. They had a prairie fire in the month of March. They made a fireguard to save their buildings, themselves and their belongings. There was no church in Lafond, so Mass was sung in Lafond's private homes occasionally. Church was built in Brosseau in 1907, and they travelled to Brosseau until the church was built in Lafond. Father Husson sang the mass at this time in private homes and also at the Sacred Heart Mission in Saddle Lake. Nuns were also staying in that Mission, teaching the natives. The closest grocery store was in Brosseau, owned by Hector Brosseau's grandfather Edmond Brosseau. Their closest railway line was in Vegreville.

Mrs. Robinson was always kept busy knitting from wool she carded and spun herself, and sewed for all her children with lots of pride. She baked approximately 50 loaves of bread a week so she could feed her family of 18. Joseph's parents,

Nazaire and Odile, filed their homestead next to their son's, but stayed in the same house and helped raise the family. Joe would bring wheat to St. Paul for milling. It would take 2,400 lbs. of flour a year with all the baking she would do. In the fall, a load of grain would be sold to purchase 500 pounds of sugar, tea, molasses, salt and products for the winter.

For a pastime in the winter, the children would slide down the hill with a horse cutter. In summer, picnics were organized very often by the families, just for a get-together to play ball or have dances in each other's home. This was also done at Christmas and on New Year's Day.

In the fall of 1924, the Robinsons were struck by smallpox. Fifteen of the seventeen were down with it, all at the same time. The twins were newly born and even they had it. Only Grandfather Nazaire and Alice did not get it. Dr. Hardy from Brosseau came down and quarantined the family. A neighbour, Alderic Paradis, would come every week to pick up a list of things they needed from the Brosseau store, and then would return with the goods, and leave them on the porch. Neighbours were always good to each other in times of a crisis.

Until the railroad line was completed to St. Paul, all the pioneers as far east as Bonnyville, when having to travel to Vegreville or Edmonton would stop overnight at the Robinsons (Stopping Place, it was called), to rest their horses, and eat with the Robinsons. Some men would trade their horses with each other while they were staying. The Robinson children would have fun helping themselves from the wooden candy buckets or in the bags of peanuts but would always hide their traces from the owner. Joseph Robinson was famous for trading horses very often.



Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Robinson
1908 standing by the Cloutier
house in Lafond.

In 1927, a new home was put up by the family on the same homestead. Joseph and his family stayed on the same farm until his passing, which was in 1933, at the age of 48 years old.

Education was started for all the children at Big Fish Lake School District, 1½ miles across the field on foot. The school was built on Northeast corner of Section 27, Township 56, Range 11.

Nazaire and Odile moved to Lafond townsite after Joseph's passing. Mr. Robinson was caretaker for the church for 10 years.

Marie stayed on the farm for at least two years, after which she moved close to Lafond where Rose, Pierre and Paul (twins), and Bernard could attend school. Narcisse stayed on at George's to continue school at Big Fish Lake School. Bernard and Paul finished their last years of school in St. Paul. In 1938, Marie moved to St. Paul, where they bought a log house from Camille Charron and tore it down, moved it, and it was rebuilt by some of her sons. This house is situated 5 blocks south of Lavoie Hotel where it still stands and is owned by Mrs. Joe Gamache.

Four of the Robinson sons were in the Army, but only Paul went Overseas. The war ended before Jean, Narcisse and Pierre finished their training.

Marie passed away in 1947 after a lengthy illness.

The children are:

Francis (deceased in 1967), married Annette Malo;

Marie married Ovila Foisy (who passed away in 1958);

George married Zelia Laflamme;

Alice (deceased in 1977) was married to Joe Chartrand;

Laurent married Jeannette Journault (deceased in 1979);

Jean (deceased in 1957) was married to Esther Ingram;

Wilfred (deceased in 1913 at 6 months);

Joe (deceased in 1978) was married to Laurette Lajoie;

Louise married to Michel Gordy (deceased in 1979);

Felix married Rita Pigeon;

Narcisse (deceased in 1950) was married to Marieange Pigeon;

Rose married Edwin Carlson;

Twin Paul (deceased 1980) had married Stefania Logozar;

Twin Pierre married Denise Robinson;

Bernard married Stelle Krevenchuk.

JOE AND LORETTE ROBINSON

by Diana Robinson

Joe W. Robinson of St. Paul, son of Joseph and Marie (Fortin) Robinson married Lorette Lajoie of

St. Paul, daughter of Rosealda Lafreniere and Denis Lajoie on April 28, 1942.

Joe and Lorette lived in town but always had a farm with livestock. The couple had five children: Denise — married Raymond Jalbert. They have three children, Loren, Laurie, and Lyle. Denis — married Elaine Doige and they have two children; David and Kevin. Michael — married Marie Paranteau and they have two children. They are Shane and Jason Victor — married Diana Tremblay and have one child, Jeremy. John — the youngest, is still a bachelor.



Lorette and Joe Robinson.

Joe passed away in November of 1978. Lorette sold the farm to her son Victor and she now resides in St. Paul.

ROBINSON, LAURENT AND JEANNETTE

by Pauline M. Paziuk

Laurent Robinson, son of Joseph and Marie (nee Fortin) Robinson, was born November 3, 1911. His school years were spent at a little country school in Foisy. Some of the teachers he recalls were: Miss MacCosham, Mr. Ben Tremblay, Mary Shipentzee, and Mr. Olenzed.

While Mr. Tremblay was teaching in Foisy, (approximately 1919) there was a fire in the school yard, caused by a steampowered threshing machine which went by on the road. Laurent being only 8 years of age, was given the responsibility of holding the teacher's jacket while he fought the fire with the older children. This was too boring for Laurent, so he put the jacket down on the grass and joined his older brothers George and Francis in fighting the fire. When the teacher went to reclaim his jacket, all that was left was the keys of the school lying on the ground.

At the age of 14, Laurent left school to help his dad and older brothers threshing, pitching bundles from 6:30 in the morning till 8 o'clock at night. After the Fall work was finished, Joseph took his three older sons to Edmonton, and bought the boys each a suit and an overcoat, as a reward for their help with the work.



Laurent and Jeannette Robinson Wedding Sept. 7, 1936, held at the Lafond St. Bernard Church, Lafond, Alberta. L-R: Top — Edmond Robinson, Father Paul Mailloux, Joseph Adolphe Journault. Bottom — Laurent Robinson, Jeannette Robinson (Journault).

In the early 30's, Laurent helped Mr. Simeon on the farm in the Muriel Lake area. Mr. and Mrs. Simeon had bought a new Model T Ford, but didn't know how to operate it very well. So Laurent and his work-mate, Adelard Seguin, did the driving.

One day, they were going to church in Duclosville when the car stopped halfway up a hill. They



Laurent Robinson disking on the land east of Lafond owned by Delphis Vaillancourt.

had Mr. Simeon hold down the brake while Laurent and Adelard went out to see what was wrong with the car. Mrs. Simeon took this chance to go squat out behind the car and take care of a problem. At the most inopportune moment, Mr. Simeon released the brake, the car rolled backwards, and Mrs. Simeon tried to run from behind but her bloomers were down around her ankles. She tripped and fell, the car ran over her toes and hit the ditch. She was brought to the hospital to have her toes examined. Fortunately, there was no damage to the car.

In 1933, Laurent's father, Joseph, passed away, so Laurent went back to the farm to help his mom and his younger brothers and sisters. After a year or two, the boys decided to build a home for their mother ½ mile west of Lafond. She moved in with the children and her father-in-law (Grandpa Nazaire), and he was able to help her as long as he could.

Laurent and his brother George and George's wife Zelia (Laflamme) decided to venture out on their own. They traded a Model T car and an old wagon for 10 acres of land and a house, east of Lafond. Zelia did the housekeeping and the cooking while the boys did the outside chores. They pastured and cared for cattle on the open range, cattle belonging to Mike Semeniuk and Bill Melnychuk. They supported themselves by milking cows and selling the cream — 10 gallons a week at 50 cents a gallon.

One Spring day when George and Zelia had gone to town, the kitchen door was left open, a bunch of piglets got into the house. They tripped the bread can over and stole all the bread. They had a feast, but there was no more bread in the house for the rest of the week.

In the Fall of 1935, Laurent and George traded the house to Octave Robinson for a Model T car and a horse. Octave moved the house onto his own land to provide shelter for his family. This is when George and Zelia moved into the St. Paul Area. Laurent purchased some blacksmithing equipment from Paul Chmilar for \$75, and rented a building from Edmond Robinson for \$2.50 a month. He was all set to go into business for himself.

There was one thing lacking: someone to share his life. He found the girl of his dreams at a double



Laurent and Jeannette Robinson Family on the day of son Robert's wedding — 1966. L-R: back row — Ernest, Marguerite, Marie Ange, Robert, Rollande, Pauline, Real. L-R: front — Charles, Bertha, Mom, Eugene, Dad, Eugenie, Gilbert.

wedding ceremony held at Eskow Beach Dance Pavillion, on the west shore of Lac Sante. The young gal was Jeannette Journault, daughter of Joseph Journault and Marie Anna (Belanger) Journault. Things fell into place quite well for Laurent and Jeannette, and they were married in the Lafond church on September 7, 1937.

Now they had to buy a home, so they purchased the Edmond Robinson home for \$250; the terms: nothing down and \$5 a month, interest free. The blacksmith shop Laurent had set up was next-door to the house they bought. He spent many hours in the shop, using a 14 lb sledge hammer. He sharpened plow shares for 25 cents, shod horses for \$1, rebuilt plow shares for \$2.50, set buggy wheels or sleighs for the winter. His hired help, Antonio Moisan, was paid \$1.50 a day. This shop paid for the bread, butter and other necessities for the family for seven years.

Laurent rented ½ section of land half a mile east of Lafond, and stayed there for two years. He bought some hogs, cattle, horses and farming equipment.

In 1945, he bought a quarter of land 1 mile east and ½ mile south of Lafond. It was purchased from the bank for \$1100. Laurent and Jeannette built their first new house in 1946 on this parcel of land. They moved into their new home, using horses and racks, with five of the fourteen children who eventually came along.

Eighteen years was spent here, doing mixed farming, with Laurent working out part-time, helping other people build their homes. Jeannette planted a large garden and a big potato patch, and the Fall season was spent preserving. Five or six of the children would pick peas in a big galvanized tub in the early morning, and spend all afternoon sitting around the tub in the kitchen shelling peas. I was one of them. I remember one Fall preserving about 400 quart jars of vegetables for the winter. Every-



Laurent Robinson on his first tractor, a "Wallace", late 1940's.



Laurent Robinson's new home built in 1946. L-R: Marguerite, Pauline, Marie Ange, Rollande.

body helped with the chores and house duties, milking cows, feeding pigs and chickens, separating milk and cream, preparing meals, washing the wood floors, and making our own butter and cottage cheese.

Early in the 1960's, Laurent built a sawmill, and then spent several winters sawing lumber for the local people. In 1963, he moved his sawmill to Truman, where he spent most of the winter.

In 1964, Laurent bought one quarter plus 64 acres from Andrew Robinson. They went into the cattle business, but it did not pay very well, so they looked for something else.

In the Fall of 1965 Laurent signed a contract with Federated Co-op at Smith, Alberta, to saw 1,250,000 feet of lumber. His son Real went with the tractor, pulling the sawmill behind. It was a long trip, so he and Laurent would change over for a few miles. The rest of the family followed with the furniture. From the Fall of 1965 to the Spring of 1967 when their contract was completed, everybody was busy. The children went to school; Laurent and one older son were sawing lumber with a crew of men; Jeannette was the cook for the whole outfit. In the early Summer of 1967, the family moved back to the farm they had bought on the shore of Lac Sante. They were grain farming, with carpentry work in the off-season.



Laurent Robinson and Peter Brault hauling wood in early 1950's.

Jeannette passed away very suddenly on June 9, 1979, but Laurent still resides on the farm. He is now semi-retired, but still enjoys woodworking and some grain farming.

Laurent and Jeannette's children are:

Rollande, born August 24, 1938, lives in Campbell River, British Columbia.

Rachelle, born November 19, 1939, died of meningitis February 20, 1941.

Marie Ange, born April 1, 1941; married Aime Malo on August 24, 1958. They have 2 sons and 2 daughters, and live in St. Albert, Alberta.

Pauline, born May 30, 1942; married Russell Paziuk on October 20, 1962. They have 1 son, 2 daughters, and live in Foisy.

Marguerite, born September 30, 1943; married Maurice Nadeau. They have 2 sons and 2 daughters, and live in Picardville.

Robert, born March 29, 1945, married Eileen Foisy on May 21, 1966. They have 2 sons, and live in Spruce Grove, Alberta.

Real, born August 21, 1946, passed away accidentally June 24, 1973.

Bertha, born March 30, 1948, married Robert Bouchard on January 8, 1966. They have 2 sons, 1 daughter, and live in St. Paul.

Eugenie, born April 22, 1950 married Gary Wwiss on June 1, 1968. They had two sons — their marriage ended in 1977. She has since resettled in St. Albert, and has a third child, a daughter.

Mariette, born December 20, 1951, passed away with a pleurisy on April 10, 1953.

Ernest, born July 1, 1953, married Simone Beaudoin on November 15, 1975, and they live in Lafond, with their triplets, born Apr. 3, 1981.

Gilbert, born October 18, 1955, is engaged to Gina Chimko. He lives in Spruce Grove.

Charles, born May 21, 1957, and Eugene, born September 29, 1958, are both single and living at home.

LEON ROBINSON — DELINA BLANCHETTE

by Daughters Emilienne Blanchette and Carmen Lambert

L'Anse Pleureuse is a little village on the south shore of the St. Lawrence River, between Mont Louis and Cap-de-la-Madeleine, County of Gaspé West, Quebec.

Leon, son of Pierre Robinson and Malvina Belanger, was born in L'Anse Pleureuse November 25, 1890. He had 3 brothers and one sister.

Delina Blanchette, daughter of Fabiana Blanchette and Eveline Robinson (no relation) was born in the same place on April 8, 1894.

Leon and Delina were married in Mont Louis, in 1911, where they settled. In summer he was a



Front row centre: Mr. and Mrs. Leon Robinson. From L-R: Laurette and Lucien Poulin, Carmen and Leo Lambert, Joseph and Noella Robinson, Rene and Lucia Robinson, Annette Radies, Leo Robinson, Zoel and Marie Robinson, Henry and Noella Chartier, Philip and Emilienne Blanchette, Albert and Cecile Joly, Joachim and Clore Robinson. Missing are William Radies, Mrs. Leo Robinson (Lucy) and Mrs. Rita (Lavallee) Stovos. Photo taken in 1961.

fisherman and in winter he went logging in the lumber camps of the region.

Friends of the family, Nazaire and George Robinson, had gone to the West to homestead in the Lafond-Foisie district. They wrote to a friend in Mont Louis, Philippe Henley, that money could be made "by the barrel" so he joined them. Philippe wrote back that a good living could be made in Alberta, and that good farms could be bought quite cheap. This induced Mr. and Mrs. Leon Robinson and Mr. and Mrs. Jean Henley to come too, in 1913.

Leon left Mont Louis with his wife and 5-week old daughter Emilienne. In Montréal, he had no money, so he stayed there until he had enough for fare. They came by train to Vegreville where Nazaire Robinson met them. They spent the winter with Nazaire before going to a homestead, 3 miles east of Lac Bellevue. There, they had a log house. The roof provided no shelter against rains. When the water began to seep through, their only protection was an oil cloth on the table, under which they would huddle to try to keep dry. René, Joachim and Leo were born there.

For groceries and other staples they had to go to Brosseau or Duvernay, with horses and wagon or sleigh. They shopped at Mrs. Rioux's store in Duvernay. Often they were caught in the rain, so everything would have to be dried when they got home.

In 1918, Leon decided to return to Quebec. For one year he worked around Mont Joli, but conditions there were not the same as before he had left and the desire to return to Alberta became strong.

As he always said, "Once you drink the waters of the Saskatchewan River you will always return". He did return in 1919 to the Lafond district where he rented a farm from Mr. Fortin. Emilienne, Rene and Joachim attended school for the first time, in Chesterville, where Miss Margaret McPherson (Mrs. Robert Watt) was teaching. Then he bought old man Prather's farm in the swamp. Zoel, Noella, Cecile, Joseph and Annette were born there.

Times were hard. For days on end they lived on porridge without sugar, but with milk from their cow. The boys would snare rabbits and prairie-chickens. Leon would go working in Lamoureux, near Fort Saskatchewan, and would walk both ways to save his money. The wages were \$1.00 a day plus three meals a day. Mrs. Robinson would take in sewing for her neighbors.

This farm was unproductive so Leon disposed of it and bought another one from the C.P.R., on the east side of Big Fish Lake (now known as Lac Sante). Besides growing grain he raised horses, milked cows and had pigs and chickens. Laurette, Rita and Carmen were born there. It was another struggle for survival again. The older children left home early to find employment and to be married. In 1942, their oldest son, Rene, enlisted in the army and was overseas until the end of the Second World War. As times went by, conditions on the farm began to improve and life became easier for all.

Mr. and Mrs. Leon Robinson retired in St. Paul, 1957 leaving the farm to their youngest son, Joseph. Leon died November 23, 1961 and was buried on the day he would have been 71. Mrs. Robinson



Mr. and Mrs. Leon Robinson cutting their cake on the occasion of their 50th Wedding Anniversary in 1961.

passed away September 15, 1979 at the age of 85. She was survived by 11 children, 54 grandchildren and 60 great-grandchildren.

Emilienne (June 17, 1913) married Philip Blanchette. They have 7 children; Estelle, Lorraine, Marie, Leon, Rachel, Louise, Diane and Leonard and 19 grandchildren. They reside in Edmonton.

Rene (August 25, 1915) married Lucia Brosseau and had 4 children; Robert Charles, Barbara, Leonard and Richard, as well as 5 grandchildren. He died August 9, 1976.

Joachim (March 2, 1917) married Clara Fotty. They had 2 chosen children; Gerald and Caroline. He has one grandchild and lives in Oliver, B.C.

Leo (May 18, 1918) married Lucy Hrushka and had 3 daughters; Cecile, Jeanette and JoAnne. He has 5 grandchildren and lives in Oliver, B.C. He also has one great-grandchild.

Zoel (May 10, 1921) married Marie Cartier and had 8 children; Albert (deceased 1954), Doris, Lucille, May, Solange, Guy, JoAnne and Aline. He has 4 grandchildren. Ramona (nee Black) and she has 1 daughter; Nancy. They live in Kamloops, B.C.

Noella (December 25, 1922) married Henry Chartier. They have 5 children; Muriel, Roland, Doris, Carmen and Suzanne, and 3 grandchildren. They live in St. Paul, Alberta.

Cecile (May 6, 1924) married Albert Joly and



Mr. and Mrs. Leon Robinson with some of their grandchildren. This photo was taken on the occasion of their 50th Wedding Anniversary in 1961.

lives in St. Paul, Alberta. They have 7 children; Carmen, Ernest, Albert, Michel, LeeAnne, Sylvia and Gerald. They have 11 grandchildren. A grandson drown accidentally in 1980.

Joseph (August 29, 1926) married Noella Foisy. They have 5 children; Diane, Eric, Zoel, Alcide and Donna May, and 3 grandchildren. They live in Prince George, B.C.

Annette (April 14, 1928) married Claude Lord and had one son; Albert. William Radies and had a chosen daughter; Brenda. They live in Vancouver, B.C.

Laurette (February 11, 1923) married Lucien Poulin and they live in St. Paul, Alberta. They have 5 children Delina, Raymond, Ernest, Clement and Bernard. On March 8, 1980 they became grandparents of twins giving them a total of 5 grandchildren.

Rita (August 11, 1931) married George Lavallee and had 3 children; Victor, Larry and Cheryl. Joseph Svotos and lives in Hixon, B.C. She has 2 grandchildren.

Carmen (October 6, 1933) married Leo Lambert and lives in St. Paul, Alberta. They have 4 children; Claire, Diane, Ginette and Renald and 1 grandson.

MR. AND MRS. MAURICE ROBINSON (NEE CECILE GILL)

by Henri Robinson



Double Wedding; Maurice Robinson, Cecile (nee Gill) Onias Cote and Alice (nee Gill).

Maurice was born on November 12, 1921. He was the son of Edouard. He was raised and attended school in Lafond. After his school days were over, Maurice farmed with his dad. He also worked in the district.



Jeannine and Edmond Robinson. Children of Maurice and Cecile.

He married Miss Cecile Gill on the seventh of April, 1942. They raised two lovely children, Jeannine and Edmond. Maurice farmed in the Lafond district on the S.W. 34-56-10-4. To supplement the farm income, Maurice would cut stove wood and sell it in St. Paul. After a brief illness, Maurice passed away on January 30th, 1948.

NAZAIRE ROBINSON AND ODILLE (BANIER) ROBINSON

by Pauline Paziuk



Nazaire Robinson and Odille Banier, Paternal Grandparents of Laurent Robinson taken at their home in Lafond in 1934.

Nazaire Robinson baptized October 2, 1857 and Odille (Banier) born September 4, 1856, were married September 16, 1881, at Mont Louis, Quebec. They came from Hull, Quebec in 1901, with their only son Joseph, who was born in 1884. They lived in Lamoureux Alberta, only a few years doing odd jobs to keep the family going.

On June 30, 1905 Nazaire applied for a homestead S.E. 34-56-11-4, in the Foisy area. This land was paid for and registered to him on October 1, 1908.

Their son Joseph had his home built on the quarter next to Nazaire. Great Grandpa Nazaire and his wife Odille moved in with their son Joseph and Marie, his wife. They helped Marie with the raising of her 14 children.

In 1934 they moved to the townsite of Lafond, Nazaire spent 10 years of his stay in Lafond as caretaker of the church.

Odille passed away on October 12, 1937 at the age of 82. Nazaire passed away at the age of 93 on December 6, 1946.

PHILIP AND JULIETTE ROBINSON

by Juliette Robinson

Philip left school (Chesterville) at the age of 12, to help out on the farm. He worked in the field with 5 horses. He helped neighbors pick rocks for 25¢ a day. At 21 years of age, he went into the army and he did his basic training in Camrose, Alberta. From there, he went to Brandon, Manitoba, then back to Alberta, to the Suffield Experimental Station for the next four years. Before Philip joined the army, he had been courting Juliette Journault. When Philip was on leave, the courting continued and on November 15, 1944, they were married. Their first home was in Medicine Hat, 40 miles from Suffield Experimental Station. She had finished grade nine at Lafond School with Miss Therese Belisle as a teacher. Then she stayed at home to help with chores and did some sewing and weaving. After the war, Philip and Juliette came back to their second home and with Philip's brother Emile, took over the cultivation of the half section. They bought a tractor in the late 40's, so they had to get rid of some horses. They shipped a truck load, by trucker Edmond St. Jean to a Packing Plant in Swift Current, Saskatchewan — 20 horses netted \$110.00. Emile and Kathleen with their son Sid, left the farm in 1950, to work on oil rigs in Southern Alberta. Philip sold the farm in 1975 and moved to St. Paul, and is now working for Paul Caouette & Sons Implements Ltd.

Philip and Juliette had eight children:

Louis born December 31, 1945 went to Chesterville School for three years, by horse and buggy. The first year Fred and Helen Skawronski went with him. He graduated at Lafond School in 1966. He went to work for Alberta Wheat Pool in different



The Philip Robinson Family, Nov. 1979. Back row: Rosaire, Wilfrid, Philip, Marcel, Louis. Front row: Lorraine, Eva, Juliette, Yvette, Angele.

places then became agent in Onoway in 1969. That same year on Nov. 15, he married Lucille Lord, born on November 29, 1949, who was then employed as C.N.A. at the Boyle General Hospital. They lived in Onoway for six months, then were transferred to Lac La Biche. While there, he played hockey with the L.L.B. Clippers. In March 1973, he went to work for Calgary Power in Boyle, where he built a new home in 1978. They have two sons — Clayton 4 and Curtis 1.

Marcel born March 29, 1948 attended Chesterville School for 2 years. He graduated at Lafond in 1967. Then he worked for Alberta Wheat Pool in Bonnyville, and in Barrhead for one year. In 1971, he came back to Bonnyville to play hockey with the Pontiacs. After working for one year for Valere's Construction, he attended N.A.I.T. to obtain a certificate as Sheet Metal Mechanic. In 1973, he was the recipient of the Most Sportsmanlike Player of the League Award. That same year he won the Skater Trophy for the most funds raised in a Skate-a-thon held on Jessie Lake, where he clocked an impressive 75 miles. The previous record was 31 miles. He finished second in scoring in the league



Skating on Lac Sante near Philip Robinson's house — 1967. Wilfrid, Lorraine, Yvette, Leo Gagne, Rosarie, Eva, Louis, Marcel and Ray Malo and little Angele in front of Yvette.

one year and in the top 10, for 5 years. Jan. 18, 1975 he married Vivianne Ringuette. They have 2 children — Darcy 5 and Candace 3. They are living in Bonnyville where he built a new home. In 1978, he went into partnership in Heating, Plumbing and Gas Fitting — Triangle Mechanical. They have a staff of 20. This past season he quit the Pontiacs to spend more time at home with the family. Now he plays hockey with the Renegades (Old Timers) no body contact hockey.

Eva born July 10, 1949 started school in 1956 when the children of Chesterville were bussed to Lafond for the first time. In 1967 Lafond High School closed so she finished grade 12 at Racette in 1968. She worked one year at the hospital in St. Paul then went to Vermillion College for a secretarial course. There she met Kenneth Dodds of Tofield who was taking "Agriculture". They were married November 6, 1971. They purchased a farm in Tofield. They have two children. Jamie 5 and Michelle 3.

Rosaire born April 30, 1951 graduated at Racette in 1969. He worked for Alberta Wheat Pool in St. Paul, then Fort Saskatchewan. He came to Bonnyville in April, 1971, to work for Valere's Construction. He attended N.A.I.T. to obtain a certificate as a Sheet Metal Mechanic. After another four years employed at Valere's he then embarked in a business venture with two partners in plumbing and heating — "Nor Lake Mechanical". He plays hockey with the Bonnyville Pontiacs. This club has won two Nor Lake Championships and Northern Alberta Intermediate C & B Provincial Championships. In summer he plays football, is a member of the Fire Department and has recently joined the Knights of Columbus. July 24, 1976 he married Jeanne Caouette. She teaches grade one French Immersion at Notre Dame Elementary School. They live in Bonnyville where they built a new home in 1977.

Yvette born Aug 5, 1954 graduated at St. Paul Regional High School in 1972. She worked for "Parks and Recreation in Lac La Biche and Edmonton. On June 1, 1975 she with two other girls, left for Australia. They spent 10 months travelling and working there, then Yvette and Wendy sailed to Sicily, via the Panama Canal. It took 5 weeks. They stopped at different ports along the way — New Zealand, Noumea, Tahiti, Acapulco, Curacao and Spain. While in Europe, they visited Italy, Greece, Turkey, France and also Great Britain. They returned to Canada in July, 1976. Yvette is presently employed by McGregor Telephone and Power in Edmonton.

Lorraine born Dec. 22, 1955 graduated from High School in 1973. She attended U of A to obtain a Bachelor of Education Degree and an E.C.S. diploma. She spent the summer of 1978 at Jonquière, Quebec, studying French and that same fall started teaching at Routhier School in Falher, Alberta. On



Going to Chesterville School in 1954 with Miss Mary Petruk, teacher. The following and last year, the teacher was Miss Gladys Demchuk. L-R: Louis and Marcel Robinson, Fred Skawronski.

August 4, 1979, she married Gilbert Guennette and they are now living in Calgary where they bought a house. She teaches E.C.S. French Immersion at Highwood Bilingual School and Gilbert teaches regular and French Phys Ed. at St. Luke's Elementary School.

Wilfrid born February 8, 1957 graduated in St. Paul 1976. In his third year welding, he built a 2-horse trailer. He always enjoyed rodeos and took part in bull riding and sometimes acted as the clown. He worked part time at St. Paul Tire Shop in his last year of school. He worked for Car-Ouells and Bert Pratch Construction. He is now living in Bonnyville, working for his brother, Rosaire.

Angele born July 16, 1962, attended school in Lafond until the family moved to St. Paul. She graduated from High School in 1980. During the 1980 summer holidays, she attended French classes at Loretteville, Quebec, in view of perfecting her knowledge of French language. She has returned to school for a semester to complete her Senior Matriculation, and obtain her Senior Certificate in Business Education.

MR. AND MRS. RENÉ ROBINSON

by Lucia Robinson

René Joseph Robinson, son of Leon Robinson and Delina Blanchette, was the second child in a family of 12. He was born on August 25, 1915. In the spring of 1918, René accompanied his parents to Quebec. They had grown to love the west, so returned in August 1919 to homestead in Chesterville and then in Lafond.

René attended school in Chesterville and Lafond. Education was not considered essential, when making ends meet was vital, so he left school at an early age to work for farmers in Duvernay, Foisy and Lafond.

On December 18, 1942, René enlisted in the Canadian Army (Active) in Edmonton and trained in Camrose and Calgary. In July 1943, he was sent to England and assigned immediately to the Sea for the Highlanders of Canada. He was shipped to



René and Lucia Robinson.

Africa, saw action throughout the Italian campaign, trucked across France and was in Amsterdam, Belgium, for its liberation. After hostilities ceased he returned to Canada and was discharged on November 17, 1945 in Calgary.

On November 27, 1945, René married Lucia Brosseau of Brosseau.

Lucia, the oldest daughter of Joseph Brosseau and Lucia Coutu, was born on August 2, 1914. While attending St. Martin's School in Vegreville, she was a boarder at the Immaculate Conception Convent, run by the Daughters of Providence.

After graduation she attended the Edmonton Normal School, and went teaching in the Cham-

plain School (1933-36), Big Fish Lake School, Foisy (1938-41), Quebec School, Dakin (near Atmore in 1941-42). She also substituted in Cartier School (1938) and in the Lafond School (1937).

During the war Lucia was wireless operator in the Air Observers School (Commonwealth Air Training) at Ancienne Lorette (near Quebec City) and St. Johns (near Montreal). In 1945 she became second Wireless Officer on the M/S "Tarn", Norwegian Merchant Navy. From the home port of New York, this ship sailed across the Atlantic Ocean to the west coast of Africa (from Dakar, French West Africa. Takoradi, Gold coast; Pointe Noire, French Equatorial Africa; Matadi, Belgian Congo, and lastly to Lobito, Portuguese Angola.) After VJ Day, Lucia returned to Brosseau and married René.

At first René and Lucia went farming. Through VLA he bought a half section adjacent to Duvernay. In 1952 he sold the eastern quarter to Western Chemicals Ltd. This was the site chosen for a chemical plant which was closed down and sold to Western Truck Body Company in 1980. There, René became a qualified steamfitter and was employed for more than 22 years.

In 1950 Lucia resumed her teaching career, at different intervals, in Saddle Lake. Again in 1965, she substituted in the Lafond School. She finally retired in 1971 and resides in Duvernay.



Barbara and James Filewich.



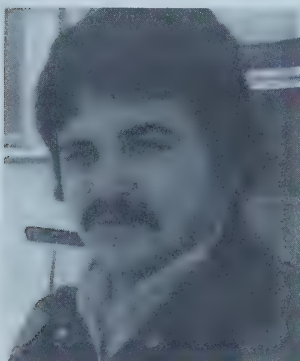
Robert Charles and Marcella Robinson. Bob is grandson of Leon Robinson. Marcella is granddaughter of Lucien Desaulniers.



Leonard and Leslie Robinson.

Being an ardent horseman, Rene became involved with the Two Hills 4-H Light Horse Club, and then, the Two Hills Agricultural Society. He and his Palomino Arabian Horse, Blaze, were a familiar sight at parades in Two Hills, Vegreville and St. Paul.

René passed away at the University Hospital, Edmonton, on August 9, 1976 and was interred in Brosseau.



Richard Robinson.

René and Lucia have 4 children:

Robert Charles was born September 19, 1946 in Vegreville. He attended school in Two Hills, Brosseau and St. Paul. He completed high school at St. Anthony's College, Edmonton. He trained as Instrumentation Technician at NAIT and then graduated from U of A as a Mechanical Engineer in 1973. On May 18, 1968, Bob married Marcella Neveu, daughter of Henri Neveu and Simone Desaulniers of St. Paul. They are the proud parents of Wade (1973) and Brian (1976). From 1973 to 1980 Bob was employed at the Potash Mine in Esterhazy, Sask. He is currently working as Supervisor Contact Engineer in the Mine Engineering Department of Syncrude Canada, Ltd., in Fort McMurray, Alberta.

Barbara Irene was born August 13, 1948 in Vegreville. She attended school in Brosseau, Saddle

Lake, St. Paul, Legal and Lafond. She did not complete her Business Course at McTavish Business College, Edmonton, because it closed down. She found employment at the Bank of Montreal, Two Hills. On September 5, 1970 Barbara married James Filewich, son of Arthur Filewich and Olga Zawaduk of Spedden, Alberta. They reside in Edmonton and have 3 daughters; Leah Marie (1972), Wendy June (1976) and Jamie Lee (1978).

Leonard Joseph was born March 14, 1962 in Vegreville. He attended school in Brosseau, Saddle Lake, Two Hills and St. Paul. After working on Oil rigs and in construction he was employed as an apprentice plumber for a firm in Edmonton. He obtained his journeyman's certificate in 1979. On June 14, 1980 Leonard married Leslie Ann Louise Carmack, daughter of Verne Carmack and Dorothy Nelson of Edmonton. They reside in Edmonton where he is presently employed.

Richard Lloyd Henry was born June 16, 1957 in Two Hills. He attended school in Brosseau, Two Hills and St. Paul. He is still attempting to find his niche in life, having tried steel fabrication, truck driving and sprinkler fitting. He is now employed by the County of Two Hills.

VICTOR AND DIANA ROBINSON

by Diana Robinson

Victor Robinson was born on May 13, 1954, son of Joseph and Lorette Robinson of St. Paul, Alberta.

On June 1, 1974, he married Diana Tremblay, daughter of Jacques and Gertrude Tremblay.

Victor and Diana operate a farm nine miles south east of St. Paul with their son Jeremy, who was born July 8, 1977.



Victor, Jeremy and Diana Robinson.

ADAM ROSYCHUK

as given by John Rosychuk

Adam Rosychuk, with his wife, Audokia, and their family of 7 children; Harry, Mary, John, Lucy, Margaret, Annie and Irene, moved, in 1926, from the Shepenitz area, about 2 miles north of Kaleland, to a farm 2 miles west and 1 mile north of Chesterville School. We took our mail in Lafond, and did most of our shopping at Rouillard's store and also at Edmond Robinson's store in Lafond. Sometimes we went to St. Paul, but not very often, as 18 miles in a wagon or sleigh, took a long time. Occasionally we went to Two Hills to shop and to visit relatives.

All seven children attended Chesterville School and we remember the good times we had with Miss Roy, Mr. Muri, Mrs. Martel and Mr. Elphege Lafleur.

In 1934 we moved to Glendon and lived on a small farm. We raised some cattle, a few pigs, some chickens and turkeys and managed to get through the hungry thirties.

Hunting was not a sport in those days, but a means of surviving, by supplying the family with meat — rabbit, partridges, prairie chickens or whatever we could find.

We went fishing a lot and ate fish in all forms; smoked, pickled, baked in the oven, fried and boiled. In this manner, we didn't get too tired of it.

In 1937 we moved to a farm, three miles north-east of Two Hills and continued farming. I, John, am still living on that farm. Dad passed away at the age of 60, mother at the age of 75 and Harry at 58. The others are still living, all in Alberta.



Mr. and Mrs. Triffon Rosychuk, wedding picture — Oct. 4, 1957.

day of school, she and Natalie Woloschuk had a head on collision around the corner of the school. Natalie split her forehead badly and Lily her eyebrow. It had a few of them crying and gave both girls beautiful black eyes! She recalls some school chums: Krochmal's, Skawronski's, Hrushka's, George Popowich's, William Popowich's, Denise Robinson, Labrecque's, Gregoraschuk's, Desaul-

TRIFFON AND LILY ROSYCHUK (LILY POPOWICH)

by Evelyn Popowich

On Oct 28, 1934, a Thursday afternoon, a girl child Lily, was born to Fred Popowich and his wife Zenovia. Fred's parents were Metro Popowich and Domka Lukeniuk from Mamaestie, Austria. Zenovia's parents were Kost Skakun (Onufrey's son) and Paraska Dochuk. Paraska was Kostis second wife. Zenovia's mother (Paraska) assisted at Lily's birth at home on their Lac Bellevue farm. This farmhouse still stands today. The Popowich household already had four boys, Nick, Mike, Casey, Peter, and they were eager for a baby sister. Home life was fine, but school years were far more unsettled for Fred's only daughter. By the time Lily had completed her studies, she had lived with many different families and attended several schools. From home she first attended "Beela" School till it closed down, with Mary Sadlowski and Metro Marchak teaching. Then, in order to attend Chesterville School, she lived with Bill and Kate Krynirchuk. There William Nikolaychuk taught, and Lily remembers the last



5 Generations: Mrs. Nick Rosychuk, her son William Rosychuk, standing behind her, William's son Triffon Rosychuk, Triffon's daughter Lorie Kupchenko holding her son, Collin Kupchenko.



Lorie and Jim's wedding, Sept 1, 1978: Ricky, Geraldine, Barry, Lily, Triffon, Lorie and Jim.

nier's, and Bill Hryhurchuk's: Next she attended Beauvallon School, living with the Triffon Arychuks, the Fred Hasiuks, and Anne Lysakowski's. While at Beauvallon at Lysahowski, grade 6, she wanted to attend a Sunday Sport day, so with Olga Arychuk they walked home 11 miles for a pair of jeans. Needless to say they didn't play ball, they couldn't even walk anymore, they were so sore! Nick and Mary Nippit's (where Nick Babiuk lives — next door to the school land). Here she remembers a shy Jack Archinuk, the Oberkirsh kids, and the Marceau, and the Banduras. She was then moved to Baba Paraska Skakuns at Willingdon, and attended school there with teachers Mrs. Novalkoski and Mrs. Faryna till it burned and the children were vanned to Boyan where Steve Shewchuk and Nick Dushenski taught. Finally Fred and Zenovia moved to Willingdon and Lily attended classes from home.

After her studies, Lily began work in a "family venture", a Cafe in St. Paul. Five years later she moved to another type of Public Service Work — namely the Willingdon Hospital. Here the nuns convinced her to take a correspondence "Practical Nursing Course." She did and soon she got her certificate. Since then, anytime she is employed, she works in white.

During her working days at Willingdon, Lily married Triffon Rosychuk on Oct 4, 1957. She met this Two Hills Lad, 4 years earlier, at someone's wedding. They must have made some impression on one another, because, try as they may, they cannot recall whose wedding it was.

This is Triffon's background. He is the oldest child born to William and Nancy Rosychuk of Two Hills. William's parents are Nick Rosychuk and his wife Ann (Mohiliuk). Nancy's parents are Metro Belsek and his wife Mary (Serna). Triffon was born April 22, 1935 in Vegreville. He attended classes at the Two Hills School, then began a job at Duvernay's Chemical Plant. He started on construction, and then trained for operations. He worked there

for 28 years till the operation was closed. He was working at Duvernay when he met Lily. They were married and settled down in Willingdon and he drove each day to work, for 2 years. It became bothersome to drive, so they moved nearer to the plant, to Laurent Coutu's farm. They lived there 11 years and then 9 years at Nick Logozer's home place near Lac Sante Beach, before moving to their own land. They now live on the Lac Sante road, east, just inside the St. Paul County border. Lily works at the Two Hills Hospital and Nursing Home. Triffon is employed by Pete Fodchuk, working at Saddle Lake's Dome Petroleum Gas Plant. Triffon and Lily have 4 children, and here's a little something about them:

Lorie Ann born April 14, 1959 in Willingdon. Studied at and graduated from Two Hills School. She obtained her Registered Nursing Diploma at Red Deer. Married Brosseauian, Jim Kupchenko, Sept 1, 1979. Jim's parents are the late Bill Kupchenko and his wife Elsie (Woloschuk).

Collin James born to Lorie and Jim, July 28, 1980.

Lorie works full-time at the Two Hills Hospital. Mother and daughter are often on the same medical team. Jim and Lorie farm beside the St. Laurent School, where Lori's mom learned her lessons as a very young girl.

Barry Isidore, born May 27, 1961 in Willingdon, studied at, and graduated from Two Hills School, was employed at Duvernay's Chemical Plant until its demise. He now is much appreciated helping at home till there's an opening to further his education at Vermillion College.

Geraldine Peggy Mary born Dec 10, 1963 in Willingdon, studied at Two Hills School, now attending St. Paul Regional High, hopes to pursue a career in Medical Records.

Ricky William, born January 10, 1966 in Willingdon, studied at Two Hills School, now attending St. Paul regional High, hasn't yet any firm career aspiration.

THEO AND TRUDY (FUHLER) RUMP AND FAMILY

as given by Theo and Trudy

I, Theo landed in Halifax, on March 23, 1929, a young man who had been raised on a small farm in Germany and who since my childhood had dreamed and yearned for faraway, lonely and quiet places. To leave Germany, I had been obliged to get my father's written permission. Once in Canada, I roamed around throughout the country, north and south, east and finally west.

I finally bought Mr. Talbourdet's half section, took over two quarters he had leased from the government and bought another quarter from George Hovelkamp. Now I was ready to farm and



Trudy feeding the sheep. Notice the lambs, the big ram and the little kids (baby goats) in the foreground.



Back row: Theo and Trudy Rump, and from Germany, Roswita and Hans Rump, Theo's youngest brother. Front row: Larry Rump, Cornelia Rump from Germany and Henry Rump. Taken in 1967. Notice the beautiful garden in the background, one of Trudy's specialties.

raise livestock. I farmed there by myself from 1947 to 1954.

In 1953, I was so tired of my own cooking, and having to wash dishes, clothes, floor, etc. that I began to think of getting a partner. I remembered a lovely girl in Germany whom I had met in 1938 when I had gone back home on a visit. I wrote to her and the letters began to fly back and forth, with the result that love blossomed and about a year later, I sent her a ticket to come to Canada. I also made

myself responsible for her once she got here. It was the only way that Trudy could emigrate to Canada. Another condition was that we had to be married within four weeks after her landing, otherwise she would have to return to Germany.

Under these conditions, we lost no time. Trudy stayed with some friends in St. Paul, arrangements for the ceremony were made and on June 14, 1954, we were married in St. Paul by Mgr. Loranger.

I, Trudy, was also raised on a farm, so was well prepared for country living, in the wide open spaces of Canada and was so happy to be away from the



The School Bus arriving at the Rump farm. Clifford and Barbara Whitford, Henry and Larry Rump.



25th Wedding Anniversary of Trudy and Theo Rump taken in 1979, in West Germany, where they had gone, on a belated honeymoon.

overcrowded places where I had lived in West Germany. The day after our marriage, Theo was very proud to show me his livestock: some 50 cows, 40 sheep and 8 horses. Something came up for which I was unprepared. Along with the cows were hordes of vicious mosquitoes, something we had very few of in Europe. They almost ate me alive, but I didn't complain. I didn't want to be a tenderfoot and thought: since mosquitoes are a part of Canada, I must take the bad with the good. After some time, I got used to them and learned how to keep them away — smudges and so on.

In 1960, a baby boy, Henry, came to fulfill our lives. In the meantime, my sister, Annie, had decided to come to Canada and make her home with us. This was very fortunate for me, for now I had a live-in baby sitter.

In 1964, Theo discovered the beautiful hills on the north bank of the North Saskatchewan River, six miles straight south of Lafond. We then sold our land, 10 miles south of St. Paul and bought the old Labrecque homestead and the Georges Simon place. We also leased, from the government, five quarters adjacent to our farms. Once we were settled, we took in several foster children to share our home. Five years later, we chose Larry for our own and he has grown up with our Henry.

We had a lovely home and had planned on living here permanently but when the government took our five leased quarters into the community pasture, we didn't have enough land left to keep our herd, which now numbered 120 head of cattle, 250 sheep and a few goats.

We had no choice. We sold our land to Raymond Labrecque, had a big auction sale and said goodbye to our friends in and around Lafond.

We looked around for a place to retire and found it in the foothills of Western Alberta, 13 miles west

of Rocky Mountain House. Theo still traps and hunts. He likes to fish also and sometimes, when I am not out selling Amway Products, I enjoy going along, for I like fishing too.

Henry works in the oilfields, as a derrick man on the oil rigs.

Larry works with his power saw, making cut lines for the seismic crews.

THE JOSEPH RURYKS

by Russel Paziuk

Very little is known of the pioneering family who purchased a homestead on October 22, 1914. This quarter section (S.E. 7-56-8-4) was located in the Lake Eliza district, just north of Lake Eliza lake.

The family stayed there until about 1925 or 1926 when they left the farm and moved to Edmonton.

We are told that they had a family of two children: a son Alex and a daughter Ruby. After their move from the Lake Eliza district, the family's whereabouts is unclear.

Surviving pioneers from the community indicate the Ruryks to be good hearted people who offered hospitality to their neighbourhood over and beyond their means.

JOHN AND ANNIE SADOWINSKI

by Russell Paziuk

John Sadowinski was born in 1861 and Annie in 1865.

John and Annie Sadowinski emigrated to Canada in 1914 from Borstiw, Sniatyn, Poland. Their first stop was at John's brother-in-law, Mr. John Grykuliak, who at that time was already settled in the Slawa District. The couple lived with the Grykuliaks during that summer and in the fall of 1914 moved to the homestead John had purchased upon his arrival to the district. The house was built



Kaska and Kasi Sadowinski with their family.



On the John Sr. Sadowinski Homestead 1928 — First house with thatched roof. L-R: Andrew Saiko, Cassey Sadowinski, Kaska Sadowinski with son John, Grandma Annie — Notice Steve Saikos Model T Ford.



Grandmother Annie Sadowinski with grandchildren: Mike, Walter, John.

on the homestead during the summer of 1914. John passed away in 1927 and Annie in 1942.

To them were born four children; two girls and two boys. Their first daughter, Mary, married Mr. Warrawa. One son was killed during the First World War. Helen married Mr. Uyston Scribney and lived in the Northern Valley District.

Kasi (Cassey) was born in 1904 in the family's homeland. (Borstiw, Sniatyn, Poland). Kasi came to Canada with his parents, John and Annie, when he was ten years old, and lived with his parents to the time he took over his parents homestead.

Kaska Saiko was born in Starrawa, Mowiska, Galicia in 1904 and came to Canada in the fall of 1926. Kaska came to meet her brother Steve Saiko, who had come to Canada sometime earlier, and was already established as a farmer in the Lake Eliza district.

Kaska and Kasi were married on the 13th day of August 1927. They had five children, three boys and two girls. In order of age, they are:

John born in 1928.

Mike born in 1930, married Cicile Oakes and they farm in the Northern Valley district. Mike

and Cicile have a family of two boys.

Walter born in 1932.

Anne born in 1936, married Bruce Vincent and live in Edmonton. They have a family of two girls.

Jean born in 1943, married Emil Musijowski and farm in the Derwent District. They have a family of one girl and one boy.

John and Walter are presently farming their grandfathers homestead as well as the Old Saiko farm. Some of the land, previously owned by two of the earliest pioneers to that district, The Ashworth Brothers, has been purchased by the Sadowinski brothers, and is also farmed by John and Walter. Mrs. Kaska Sadowinski lives on the farm with her sons, John and Walter, and is still very active with the duties in the house, and continues gardening, and helping her sons around the yard.

John has for many years entertained the local community with his music, and still plays for socials, weddings etc.

THE SAEGER FAMILY

by Joseph Saeger

Johann Bernhard Saeger was born in Garrel, Germany, December 18, 1898. Francisca Josepha Lanfermann was born in Falkenberg, Germany, on August 20, 1900. They were married at Falkenberg, Germany on February 22, 1922.

They emigrated from Germany leaving from Bremen Harbor via the Atlantic to Halifax Canada, then by train to St. Gregor, Saskatchewan. They arrived in St. Paul des Metis in 1927, took a homestead about 7 miles south of St. Paul des Metis, N.E. ¼ Section 4, Township 57, R. 09, W4.

They bought and moved in a 1 ply lumber shack about 12' × 18 or 20' and called it their Canadian Home. They then worked clearing brush off the land with an axe to get their land ready to break with horses. Firewood was cut and brought to St. Paul des Metis for sale, with these meager earnings they bought 1 milk cow and started farming. Gradually they bought more land as it became available. S.W. ¼ Section 16, 57, 9, W4, was for sale so they bought it, as it had a log house and a good barn and few other buildings. They moved on to this farm site in October of 1930, and have farmed there till they retired.

They raised a family of 7 children, Joseph, Ida (Mrs. Adeodat Doucet), John, Bernard, Agnes (Mrs. Alfred Bjorneskaret), Paul and Charlotte (Mrs. Andre Roberge). All the children attended Many Lakes School, when the Many Lakes School closed down, Paul and Charlotte then attended school in St. Paul. John is now living in Calgary, Alberta. The others are all, still, around St. Paul area in the farming business.

Mrs. Saeger passed away November 20, 1969. Mr. Saeger is now at Parkland Nursing Home in St. Paul.

MR. JOHN WILLIAM SAUNDERS

by Robert Saunders

John William Saunders, my dad, was born in Scotland, in approximately 1874, and came to North America as a young man. He worked in the United States for a few years and then came to Canada. He worked in Ontario where he met his future bride, Hattie Blakeman. They were married Toronto, Ontario in 1897, and lived in the whereabouts for several years. They and their three children moved to what is now Alberta, shortly after the turn of the century. They lived south of Edmonton, near Devon, for a few years, where dad had a blacksmith shop. In 1906, when I, Robert was only three weeks old, the family moved to the homestead, in the Foisy area, the land south of where Bob Tomlinson



Mrs. John William Saunders
(Hattie) shortly before she
passed away.



Wedding Picture of Mr. and Mrs. John Saunders — 1897.

now lives, with Alex Yettaw as a neighbor to the south and Bill Smith to the west of us. Here four more children were born, making us a family of nine children, eight boys and one girl. Thank goodness she was the second oldest child, so was able to help mother with this gang of boys! and could she hold her own against us!

Dad bought a steam threshing outfit in Vegreville in 1912. He earned some of it, threshing all the way from Vegreville to Foisy. He then threshed around Foisy and as far north as Owlseye, finishing on Christmas Eve. He used his outfit again in 1913-15 but in 1916, when he enlisted into the army, he sold it to a farmer in Therrien.

After dad enlisted, the boys did the farming. In the fall, many farmers would get together to drive the cattle they wished to sell, to Vegreville, the closest market. It was always tricky to drive the herds on to the ferry at Brosseau. In the fall of 1916, I was allowed to go along with my oldest brother, William, and the others, to help drive the cattle. One steer jumped into the river, rather than get on the ferry. The boys called to me to get him back. I headed out after it but it swam straight ahead and across the river, my pony doing likewise. The current was very strong in places and even just the buoyancy of the water lifted me. As I was riding bareback, I only had my pony's long mane to hang on to. Was I ever glad to finally get up on the opposite bank! I'm sure my pony's mane was longer after the pulling I had given it. This was quite an experience for a ten-year old boy.

In April, 1918, we received a telegram informing us that dad had been killed in action. We continued farming until 1919, when mother sold the farm to Robert Tomlinson Sr. and we moved north to what is now the Boscombe district.

Mother took a homestead there and we boys had our work cut out. We were very busy cutting down the heavy timber to get logs to build a house, a barn and a chicken coop. There was quite a bit of meadow hay, which was good feed for the cattle. As years went by, a bit of land was broken and we got

greenfeed for the stock. In 1928 mother moved to St. Vincent, where she lived until her death in November 1930.

In 1933, I, Robert, bought the land and farmed it until 1964, when I sold out.

John and Hattie Saunders' nine children are: William, born in 1896, never married and died in 1920.

Ida, born in 1900, married Robert Lorry. They had three boys and two girls. Ida died in 1934. Samuel, born in 1902, married Therese Boucher. He died in 1978.

Edward, born in 1904 married Lily Johnson. They had four boys and four girls and are living in Edmonton.

Robert, born in 1906, married Etna Dwyer. They have one boy and two girls and are retired in Ashmont.

Douglas, born in 1908 married Evelyn Stover. They have two boys and two girls. He passed away in 1964.

Victor, born in 1910, never married, died in 1976.

Charles, born in 1912, married Olga Boyko. They have two children one boy and one girl. They live in Perryvale; south of Athabasca, Alberta.

Lawrence, born in 1914 married Jean Boyko. They have four boys and four girls and live in Gunn, Alberta.

SAVILL FAMILY

by Catherine Connor

I, Catherine Connor, was born in New Castle, England of Irish parents. Then on April 29, 1927 emigrated to Halifax, Canada with my parents Mr. and Mrs. John W. Connor and sisters (Mary and Elizabeth). On May 8, 1927, we landed at St. Brides, Alberta where I was raised. I belonged to Our



Savill Family: Verna, Greg, Mary, Peter. Centre: Kay and Ted Savill.

Ladies Sodality and also the St. Brides Choir in my teenage years.

Ted Savill was born in Bury, St. Edmunds, England. In July of 1929, Ted emigrated to Canada. Ted was raised on the farm at Roseneath with his step-father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Alf (Pop) Gill.

Then in 1942, Ted and I met, fell in love and were married February 6, 1943. We farmed in the Roseneath area for thirty years. Ted was secretary for the R.E.A. (Rural Electrification Association) for many years and still is. He was also on the Parish Council for St. Brides. Ted and I raised four lovely children (Verna, Mary, Greg and Peter). We also fostered nineteen children in a period of nineteen years.

In May of 73, Ted had back surgery, and had to give up farming, and in July of the same year moved to St. Paul. Ted is working with St. Paul Auto Wreckage and I am keeping house, etcetera. I am also into the Ladies Auxiliary of the St. Paul Legion.

Eldest daughter, Verna married Leo Delisle from St. Paul and settled there. They have two children Bruce and Stacy. Verna is employed with Alta Hail & Crop Insurance Corp.

Second oldest, Mary is married to a widower, Gene Bradley from Edmonton with three children Dale, Jack and Shirley. Mary is employed with Arrowhead Oil Company.

Third oldest, Greg is married to Pat Wells from Fort McMurray and is settled there. They have a daughter named Jennifer. Greg is employed with Syncrude.

The youngest Peter is married to Mona Lavoie from St. Paul. They live in Edmonton and Peter teaches there.

MR. AND MRS. HEINRICH SCHEPER

by the family

Heinrich Scheper emigrated to Canada in 1928 coming on the same ship with Hermann Siemers, and Gerhard Hovelkamp. Henry took a homestead, Section N.E. ¼.

Antoinia Tabaling came from Germany as well and married Henry Scheper in 1929. They moved on the homestead and lived there.



1929, Henry Scheper and Mr. Gerhard Hovelkamp breaking land.

Mrs. Henry Scheper passed away in 1934.

Henry Scheper was a carpenter and also played with an orchestra for many parties and social functions in the area.

FRANK SCHWENGLER FAMILY

by Josie Schwengler

Frank's dad William Schwengler emigrated to Canada from Odessa, Russia in 1909 at the age of three. His mother Mary Schwengler (nee Mary Silbernagel) came to Canada from Harvey, North Dakota. My mother and father Frank and Mary Muchka (nee Mary Shelling) both came from Podbiel, Czechoslovakia. Dad emigrated to Canada in 1928 and mom came eight years later in 1936.

Frank was born in Beiseker, Alta. in 1933 and comes from a family of seven children. I was born in Trochu, Alta. in 1937 and come from a family of three children. First living east of Three Hills in the Ghost Pine Creek district then moving to Grainger, Alta. in 1950. There I attended school in Acme. After completion of high school I attended Calgary Business College, and later was employed in Calgary.

We were married in Beiseker in 1957. After our marriage we both kept on working in Calgary. In 1958, we purchased our first farm which was in Beiseker. In 1959 my working career ended when we moved out to the farm at the end of April. That year our daughter Shannon was born. In 1962 Tamera arrived and in 1964 Karen, which completed our family.

During our farming career in Beiseker we encountered some dry years which brought on bad infestations of grasshoppers. We also had a gravel truck and a backhoe tractor. During the winter in those years, they used to have what they called "Winter Works Programs" where each gravel trucker was allowed to make \$1,000.00 hauling gravel. Frank would go out trucking to places such as Hondo, Vermilion, Lethbridge etc. I remember once Frank coming back from Vermilion saying that, that was the coldest place in Alberta, not



Picture taken in 1967, L-R: Shannon, Frank, Karen, Josie and Tamera.

realizing he would some day be living so close to this cold place. I stayed at home to do the chores and tend to the family.

One evening as Frank was paging through the Western Producer, he found land that was advertised in the St. Lina area for \$2,000.00 per quarter. He showed it to me and it appealed to both of us as it was very cheap compared to what land was selling in the Beiseker area. One day we decided to venture and see what this \$2,000.00 per quarter was. Frank, myself and my dad made our first expedition to the St. Paul area. On our arrival at St. Paul, we contacted the real estate that had the land listed. They drove us out there. Neither Frank nor myself were impressed with what we had seen. It was solid brush. Never the less the real estate was willing to show us other land they had listed so we travelled to Glendon, Therien, St. Paul and area. Things did look a lot more impressive as we drove around.

In the evening, we visited with relatives which we had in the area. They informed us there was good land in the Lafond area, not only was it good productive land but it was close to schools, town and church. We went home with lots of food for thought. We returned several times looking and checking out different things. After much deliberation, whether to make the move or not, a decision was reached "Go North Young Man". My dad felt very insistent there was a bright future for young people in this area, as the price of land was far more moderate than in other areas. We sold our farm in Beiseker and purchased the Frank and Charlie Lamoureux farms which include S.E. $\frac{1}{4}$ of 31 which is the home quarter, N.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ 19, S $\frac{1}{2}$ of 18, N.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ of 7 all in 57-10-W4th. We purchased the land in the summer of 1967. We took the 1967 crop off, in beautiful weather. The last week in April, 1968, we pulled our roots in Beiseker and moved to Lafond. Lafond was being invaded with strangers: the Schwengler's, the Berreth's, the Muchka's and the



Grain drying on the Frank Schwengler's farm — 1969.

Mikalsky's all moved in, in the same spring. They had a welcoming party for us all in Lafond.

The first few years posed many problems. We needed a house as the one we were living in had fallen off its foundation many a year ago. In the fall of 1968, we managed to find a new house on the Beaver lumber lot in town which had to be moved out, which we did.

In 1969, the fall was very wet and we had a hard time getting the crop off and when we did get it off, it was tough and damp. That was the fall Frank and Joe Krochmal bought a grain drier in partnership. The following years were also very wet. During the winters of 1970 and 1971, Frank and Joe dried grain at the elevators in Glendon and Therien. In 1974, the price of grain went up substantially. Farming is not all a bed of roses. In 1974, we had a very late spring: we started to seed on the 16th of May. On the 19th of August we had a severe frost which froze the crops badly.

Over the years we purchased additional land to add to our farming operation: S.W. ¼ 27-57-10-W4th purchased from Napoleon Tremblay, S.W. 2-57-11-W4th purchased from Roger Desaulniers and the S.W. ¼ 31-56-10-W4th from Zoel Robinson.

The year 1976 was a year of illness for Frank, like they say if it rains, it pours. On Easter Sunday, he was hospitalized with a kidney stone attack. In May, during seeding he got pneumonia and had to be hospitalized again. In July, he was again hospitalized this time with back problems which ended with back surgery in Edmonton. We had Charlie Lamoureux working for us. He continued working for us for three years, till he was employed by a garage in town.

Over the years we've been involved with different organizations. Frank has been a director for the C.C.I.L., Alberta Wheat Pool, Natural Gas Co-Op, St. Paul Agricultural Society, served on the County Advisory Board, Seed Cleaning Plant Board, Chairman of the Alberta Development Corporation in St. Paul, Member of the Alberta Grain Commission, Committee member on the Water Well Appeal Board. I served as secretary for the St. Paul Figure Skating Club, Lafond Parent Advisory Committee, St. Paul Agricultural Society and was a director of the Lafond Golden Hour Club.

In 1980, Frank was one of the participants to attend the Canadian International Grains Institute in Winnipeg. There were 21 from across Canada, 11 were farmers, the rest attending were from foreign countries.

Frank has a very keen interest in machinery. He loves to buy, sell or trade things.

Our family now is quite grown up. Shannon has been working for Tannas Insurance in St. Paul, for the past three years. Tamera is completing her grade 12 at the St. Paul Regional School. Karen is taking her grade 11 at the St. Paul Regional School.

WALTER AND MARY (NÉE TOPOLINSKI) SEREDA

by Elsie Gregoraschuk (née Sereda)

Lac Bellevue, Alberta, to many is a nonentity — to some a mere spec on the map of Alberta (and only on a very detailed map will you locate it), but to me it holds many wonderful memories, some disturbing, but always a feeling of warmth and a feeling of "Home" even now, when on occasion we visit.

My parents, like countless others, pioneered a quarter section there. They originally arrived from Probuzna, Ukraine, in July, 1928, and settled in Newcastle, Alberta, for two years, while Dad worked in the mines. They arrived with four children, Grace, Albert, Jean, and Jan. In 1930, they moved to Lac Bellevue, 160 acres of sand, rock, hills, bush, a small lake bordering the property, and a bit of arable land which had to be cleared before they could eke out an existence. There was a one room cabin, and it was there that my brother Albert and my sisters spent the first winter alone, dad going back to the mines and mother to a Sanitarium. They survived by subsisting on potatoes, rice, and gravy. Nothing else.

Throughout this book you will read of many accounts of hardships conditions that our children now would refer to as "unreal" or "far out". We have to understand that it is difficult for our "now" generation to comprehend the hardships and the simple joys of those days. Vivid in my memory are the following:

- Walking to Beela School, 1½ miles regardless of weather conditions.
- Walking on the hard crust of a four-foot snow drift and occasionally slipping in, then trying to pull yourself out and continue on to school.
- Standing around the furnace vent at school, to dry and thaw your body before attacking the 3 R's.
- The Annual Xmas parties at school or at National Hall, which all families attended, from babies to grandparents.
- The excitement of preparation for any such occasion.
- The curling iron heated in the wood stove — mother an expert in the "ringlet" department.
- Bricks and stones heated in the oven, then wrapped in countless quilts for our sleigh ride to the hall.
- Spring dallying to and from school, catching ducklings and frogs, detouring flooded sloughs and roads.
- Bringing the cows home, identifying your herd by the sound of the bells.
- Haying, up on the hay rack or in the hay loft, but always tramping it down to make room for more.
- Neighbours' Sunday visits and card games.

— Threshing crews, the preparations, the catching of chickens (my job), Mother being the executioner, the baking of fresh berry pies, the 2 ft. long bologna lowered into the well (our refrigeration), the appetites of the threshing crews to me were awesome, only to be exceeded by their stories and jokes. The fights over the "poopitz" (the gizzards).

— The homemade soap mother made. I can still see the bubbles when the lye was added.

— Saturday, when our wood floors were scrubbed with lye, soap and floor brush, until white.

— Mother spinning wool into skeins, then knitting us all those ugly, bulky, but oh, so cozy, stockings.

— Last day of school picnics at Lac Bellevue Lake where I first tasted sardines and store bought bread.

— Pulling the creamer of milk out of the well, opening the spigot and filling your glass with that cold milk and milk bubbles.

— The mixing of mud plaster for the house, mud, straw, etc. done by riding a horse through this mud mixture until it was smooth enough to work with. I was usually the rider.

— During the war, the school excursions into the bush that surrounded us, in search for buffalo, elk, deer bones and any scrap iron, our defense effort.

— Berry picking, blueberries, strawberries, saskatoons, gooseberries, chokecherries, all of which mother made into jams and fruit for the winter.

— The arrival of the new Eaton's Catalogue.

— Mother sewing everything, curtains, sheets, coats, dresses, jackets for us and for many neighbours. She had the artistic ability and the imagination to transfer an old man's shirt into a beautiful blouse for me.

— The back breaking work of clearing the virgin land, the chopping down of trees, the pulling of roots, the picking of stones.

— The splitting of wood, enough to keep the wood stove going year round.

— The little income, a bit from the crops, the balance from the sale of eggs, cream and blueberries.

These are but a few, there are many more memories.

My mother, who to her family and to anyone who met and knew her, was a gentle, loving and beautiful person. She passed away in 1952. My father, who managed to cruise through life, passed away in 1978.

Grace, who after many years of travel, now lives in Winnipeg, has three children, Debra, Sandra and David, and will soon be retiring from the C.N.R.

Jean and her husband live in Mount Albert, Ontario, have 6 children: Tom, Bob, Sandra, Patricia, Kenny and Diane, and are expecting their 9th. grandchild.

Jane, who is a successful Real Estate Saleslady in Toronto, lives with her daughter Cynthia.

And my husband and I are in Edmonton. Our children are Terrance, Lorne and Della. We've stayed pretty close to home.

Some of our neighbours and friends from Lac Bellevue whom I'd like to mention because their families too were pioneers and were so much a part of these memories — Sikorskis, Krevenchuks, Gills, Trachs, Barlads, Popowichs, Zayacs, Zawadiuks, Hryhircuks, Lesotas, Worobecs, Tymofichuks, Zacharuks, and Tymchuks. A resourceful, hardy lot, always helpful, always kind. "Those were the days my friend."

MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM SHARUN

by Tillie Leroux

William and Katherine Sharun came to Canada from the Ukraine in 1930. At that time they had four children, Dmetro (Dan), Tekla (Tillie), Annie and Mary. Another son, Mike, was born at Beauvallon, where they lived for four years. They then moved to the Lac Bellevue district, where they rented the N.E. ¼ 55-9-W4th from T.C. Ashworth for a few years and then purchased it.

Dan moved to Fort William in 1941 and enlisted in the Lake Superior Regiment of the Canadian



The Wm. Sharun Family — Seated L-R: Wm., Katherine. Standing L-R: Mike, Anne, Metro, Marie, Tillie.



Front L-R: Mr. and Mrs. Makowecki, Mr. and Mrs. Sharun. Back: Dan Makowecki, Dan Sharun.

Army. He served in Europe until the end of the war. He returned to Fort William and married Madeleine Karonik. They had six children, two daughters and four sons. Dan died in 1967 at the age of 46.

Tillie moved to St. Paul, where in 1946 she married Emile Leroux. They have six children, five daughters and one son and are still living in St. Paul.

Ann married Roy Rault and moved to Calgary where they still live. They have one son.

Mary married Fred Sadlowski. They had one daughter and one son. Fred died in 1960. Mary now lives in Edmonton.

Mike married Geraldine Ewaskw. They have two sons and one daughter and live in Edmonton.

The father William Sharun died in 1945, Katherine tried to farm by herself but found it too much for her as the older children had moved away by then. She sold the farm and moved to St. Paul. She later married Walter Gulka. Katherine died in 1970 and Walter died in 1975.

PETER SHEPERT

by Peter Shepert

Peter Shepert married Mary Verbicky in 1924 at Stry, Alberta. In the spring of 1927 they moved to St. Brides with their two children, Mike and Alex.

Bought a half section of land for \$2,100 from Indian Affairs. This was all bush. That year we cleared and broke seven acres. The following years we seeded those acres into wheat. It was a complete loss due to severe frost.

In 1928, we bought a small Ferguson tractor and with four horses, we continued to break a few acres every year.

In those days, people lived mostly off the land so life was very hard. There was a flourmill at Bellis where people took their wheat to grind into flour.

In the early thirties, when most people were hit by the depression, we thought times were a lot better as by then we had a little livestock and produced enough grain to be self-sufficient, so we had lots to eat compared to when we first started.

The closest school was the Celtic School in St. Brides which was four miles away and you walked winter and summer and rarely missed a day.

We bought our first car — a model T Ford in the mid thirties.

In 1927, we moved from Stry to St. Brides. With us, we brought a Humming Bird threshing machine with a Fordson Tractor. This was the first threshing machine in St. Brides.

As the years passed, we raised a family of fourteen children, thirteen of whom were still living.

Micheal married Dorathy Slosiky and have four children and reside in St. Paul.

Alex passed away in 1964.

Kathleen married Walter Brodziak and have four children and reside in St. Paul.

Sophie married Michael Brodziak and have two children and reside in St. Paul.

Mary married John Mahdiuk and have two children and live in St. Paul.

Jean married William Katyk and reside in Calgary.

Ann married Otta Beitel and have three children and reside in Edmonton.

Frank married Verna Loay and have two children and reside in Lloydminster.

Elsia is residing in Vancouver, B.C.

Peter married Simone Dubeau and have two children and reside in Camrose.

Tony is residing in Edmonton.

Irene married Douglas Harlton and they reside in Vancouver B.C.



Peter and Mary Shepert's Family Picture. Front row: L-R: Katie, Mary, Mike, Peter Sr., Sophie. Back row: L-R: Peter, Elsie, Frank, Irene, Tony, Mary, John, Jean, Ernie, Ann.

Ernie married Linda Flecher and reside in Edmonton.

We have five great grandchildren. We retired from farming and moved into St. Paul in 1964 where we are now living at the ages of 80 yrs. and 75 yrs. young.

MR. HERMANN SIEMERS DIARY

by *Therese Siemers*

Born: August 1, 1903

At: Halen, Oldenburg, Germany

Died: December 2, 1980

Parents: Clemens August Siemers

Maria Anna "Lisethe" Klusener

Occupation — Germany: farming, also worked in quarries and mines

March 27, 1928, sailed from Bremen Harbour on the ship KARLSHRUHE, 10826 TONS; Destinations: HALIFAX AND NEW YORK — leaving behind his fiancée, who never did follow him. He never married.

Also on the ship's passenger list: Gerhard Hovelkamp, Heinrich Scheper.

Applied for homestead S.W. 8-57-9-W4, May 9, 1928. He was naturalized July 5, 1935.

In the early days Hermann worked for Mr. A.J. Woods (blacksmiths) on his farm, and also for Mr. Gerhard Hovelkamp.

Uncle Hermann, as he was known to everyone, kept careful and tidy records. Among them:

Entertainment Fund Many Lake School (school socials and dances)

June 17, 1939 — Balance \$ 2.55

Amount collected at picnic

\$13.50

Paid at Creamery \$ 8.16

Paid at Butcher \$ 4.60

Total Paid \$12.76

Money on hand July 3 \$ 3.29

Paid for sewing football Sept. 5

.20

REMAINS \$ 3.09



Hermann Siemers 1939 — Rail fence built on farm.

Among his records faithfully kept, are his Cash books dating as far back as January 1947.

Of note are various interesting items as:

1947

Feb. 13 — Received for wheat \$ 48.00

Feb. 13 — Paid for horse collar \$ 6.00

Feb. 23 — Wheat bonus \$ 13.19

April 1 — Sold cow and calf \$100.00

April 26 — Paid radio license \$ 2.00

July 2 — Cash wheat bonus \$ 2.72

(Total Income July \$2.72)

Oct. 2 — Cash for cream \$ 7.05

1947 — TOTAL INCOME \$617.77

TOTAL EXPENSES \$660.02

1949

April 5 — Cash for horse hair \$ 3.87

July 3 — Paid for Journal \$ 2.00

1951

June 5 — Cash for calf \$ 85.10

In April 1958, are the last farming entries, at which time he sold his land to Henry Bouchard. He then worked as a caretaker for the golfcourse, living in a little house on the recreation grounds.

Further entries in his cash book:

Aug. 22/58 — First paycheck from Golfcourse \$100.00

Oct. 11/58 — Final payment, Golfcourse \$ 50.00

Dec. 22/58 Check from Agricultural Society \$150.00

TOTAL EARNINGS \$300.00

June 4, 1963 Paid A.G.T. (first time)

Oct. 22, 1966 Down payment on house

He then moved to his little house (next to the present Correctional Centre), but continued working till Fall 1968 at the Golfcourse, when he retired.

June 12, 1969 (in red) MacLeods, 3 speed bike \$51.63

Everyone remembers Uncle Hermann for his bike. His daily routine, unless the weather was bad, included an average 10 to 14 mile round trip. At the age of 75 Hermann rode in a bike-a-thon sponsored by the Elks to raise money for charity.

Although a bachelor, his house was spic and span. He loved children, and at one time boosted 22 children, meaning of course all the neighbourhood children for whom he always had treats. If anyone had a birthday there was sure to be a small present.

And he didn't forget the ladies. Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Mahdiuk, Mrs. Thoben and Mrs. Perry were on his list of those he felt he had to look after on his daily rounds.

From November 16, 1970, he kept a daily weather chart noting high and low temperatures:

First entry: Rain, snow ice 30° + (F)

January 1, 1976, he switched to Celsius.

His Notation — Beginning of Book 1978 — "A man 75 years old has about lived 27,400 days"

From Aug. 25/79 to Sept. 13 one entry — hospital 20 days.

Oct. 22/78 — Started living with Ludwig, his nephew. He returned home in Spring 1980, but a few days after Halloween returned to Ludwig's for the winter.

November 12, 1980, he entered hospital for his final stay.

Last entry — (Remembrance Day) November 11, 1980, overcast, cool, light winds -2, +2.

OTTO HENRY SIEMERS

by Therese Siemers

S.E. 17-57-9-W4

Born: December 29, 1936 — 2nd son of William Siemers

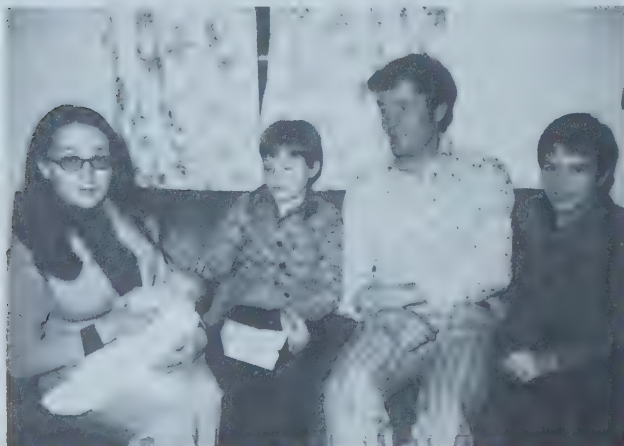
Married: August 30, 1962

To: Therese L'Heureux — daughter of J.E. L'Heureux, Gilberte Drouin — also a native of St. Paul.

Since there wasn't room for the two eldest sons to farm with their father, Otto worked as a hired hand for many other local farmers such as Raoul Picard, Henry VanBrabant, Oscar Paul, etc.

In 1961, he decided to try his luck at working in a sawmill in Giscombe, B.C. Spring of 1962, brought him back to work for Oscar Paul. It was that year he became known as "Quick Draw", and as the name implies, one day he outdrew himself, shooting himself accidentally through the leg, narrowly missing the bone. Somehow, after that he lost interest in his "Quick Draw". One week later he and his brother Ludwig swam "Three Mile Lake" across and back in 5 hours. They could have done it faster, but the inner tubes, which they pulled behind for safety held them back.

From the time of their marriage, Otto and Terry went to Giscombe, B.C. arriving there with \$75.00 to their name. Soon came two sons, Ben in 1963, Douglas in 1964. Otto worked in various sawmills



1975 — Otto Siemers Family. Wife Therese holding 5 day old Elizabeth, Douglas, Otto and Ben.

and camps in winter, and for the Department of Highways in summer as flagman, and also driller (dynamite) on new road construction.

But the call of the land was always strong and in April 1970, he returned to the old home farm to help his dad, who was now too ill to farm on his own. His family followed at the beginning of July when Ben finished Grade 1. Together they purchased the original homestead, N.W. 8-57-9-W4 and S.W. 17-59-7-W4 from Walter, and then later the family homeplace S.E. 17-57-9-W4, a year later from his dad, who remained living there in his own house. Another house was moved to the same yard in 1971 for Otto and his family.

Due to shortage of funds, and poor health, the farm had become neglected. Cleaning up and rebuilding took a great deal of effort and cash. To supplement farm income at first, both Otto and his wife had to take on outside jobs, Otto as carpenter and Terry as bookkeeper, presently still employed by a local Implement Dealer.

December 21, 1975, brought an addition; Elizabeth, that year's Christmas present for the family.

Otto continues to enjoy hunting, trapping and fishing. After all those years of struggling, he is finally beginning to see the daylight. The thing that amazes him the most now is that he suddenly has to look up to his second son Douglas at 6'1" at 17.

Otto takes great pride in his herd of Hereford cattle. Raising Peacocks and other such birds also occupies a fair amount of his time.

Occasionally he finds the time along with Ben, the eldest son to give a hand to his brother Ludwig in his new venture as "Siemers Construction".

WALTER SIEMERS

by Therese Siemers

Eldest Son of William Siemers

Born: December 7, 1935

Farmed with his dad and in 1956, purchased S.W. 17-57-9-W4 from Henry VanBrabant, originally Louis Vallette's land. William gave him the original family homestead N.W. 8-57-9-W4.

As well as farming, Walter was the friendly neighbourhood milkman. He also drove trucks for Nick Stasyk, and Eddie Elkow, besides working at the Auction Mart.

Walter recalls walking to school, 1 mile from home, Many Lakes School, at one time as many as 30 children attended, located N.E. 8-57-9-W4. For several years Uncle Hermann was on the School Board as well as Entertainment Committee (1939-1941). The family remembers some of the teachers there: 1933-1936 — Lola Wilkening, Freda (Hauzenberger) Gosselin, Mr. Melvin, 1949 — Mr. J.E. L'Heureux, Mr. C.E. Polloway. Followed by a number of supervisors, one of which was Avran Bagan.



Walter Siemers — 1960.

One year the Supervisor left without giving any final exams, and the whole school had to repeat the same grade the following year. Walter recalls one Supervisor when asked a question replied "How should I know?"

In the fall of 1954, when Willie, the youngest of the Siemer's family was in grade 2, buses began sending the children to school in St. Paul, by then it was too late for Walter and Otto, who had already quit school.



Walter and Otto Siemers going hunting — 1950.

Horses were always Walter's first love. In 1955, he bought Beauty, as a young mare from Aime VanBrabant. Beauty gave birth to her first colt, July 4, 1956. Beauty remains to this day on this farm and at Walter's request shall stay till her days end.

In 1970, Walter sold his land to his brother Otto, and moved to Prince George, B.C., where he presently resides.

August 12, 1978, he married Geraldine (Boudreault) Smith, a widow with 2 teenaged sons, Rocky and Russell. She is the daughter of Collin Boudreault and Mary Cozicar, now Mrs. Henry Lanfermann.

WILHELM SIEMERS AND MARIA SIEMERS

by Therese Siemers

WILHELM: Born April 19, 1905, Halen, Oldenburg, Germany. Died March 1975. Brother to Hermann, 1 of 10 children.

Occupation — Germany; farmer, carpenter, miner.

Sailed from Bremen, Germany on the SS DRESDEN, April 4, 1929, destination, Halifax, Canada, then by train to St. Paul des Metis, Alberta.

On arrival at St. Paul des Metis, William as he was known here, stayed at Gerhard Hovelkamp's — the usual stop-over for all immigrants. Then he worked for Joe LaFlame, and later Adelard Chamberland, between helping Hermann clear his land. Later Hermann and William farmed together.

Maria, his fiancée waited patiently for more than 5 years in Germany.

MARIA ELIZABETH NEIHAUS: parents — Franz Neihaus, Elizabeth Sloemer.



1938, Mr. and Mrs. William Siemers with sons Walter and Otto.



William Siemers Family — 1951. Walter, Mrs. Siemers, William Siemers, twins Ludwig and Louise, Marie, Elsa, Adolph. Missing from picture, son Otto.

Was born March 3, 1904, in the Village of Bethen, Germany, approximately 15 miles from Halen. Orphaned at birth, she was raised by an elderly aunt; her two older brothers, Franz and Gerhard lived with their father until his accidental death 2 years later, then lived with cousins in the neighbourhood.

While Maria waited to join William in Canada, she occupied herself as a seamstress and a farm-maid. At this time, the beginning of the Hitler domination, all emigrations were halted for those who had no immediate family in Canada.

Finally she sailed October 9, 1934, departing from Bremen, Germany on the SS BREMEN, a nine day voyage to Halifax, Canada, with stops en-route in France and Ireland. The overland trip from Halifax by train took another 2 days and 3 nights to Edmonton.

She recalls her stop over at a Hotel in Halifax, and an uneasy night spent on bed springs without mattress, pillow or blankets.

As usual, her next stop was at the Hovelkamp's till their wedding day, November 14, 1934.

For a wedding present Hermann gave them a milk-cow, their first, for which he had paid \$20.00.

William and Maria lived at Hermann's, who then returned to work for Mr. Woods for some time. All their eight children; Walter — December 7, 1935, Otto — December 29, 1936, Adolf — February 3, 1939, Elsa — July 9, 1940, Louise and Ludwig — August 4, 1941, Maria — January 24, 1945 and Willie — March 13, 1946, were born during the years they spent farming with Hermann, although William had obtained his own homestead, N.W. 8-57-9-W4, in the late 30's.

The first 6 children were delivered at home, and Uncle Hermann claimed to always have been the one to fetch the doctor, usually at night and during a

storm. Once Doctor Nickoforuk had come by the usual winter route-over Upper Therien Lake and Surveyor Lake with a new contraption — glider with propeller, that was so noisy it scared all the horses around. And of course he got stuck by Henry Scheper's. Horses had to pull him the rest of the way, and the poor Doctor without a cap froze his ears.

War and depression brought suspicion on all people of German descent. The fact that they were Naturalized Canadian Citizens made no difference. All had to report at regular intervals to the local Police. All guns were seized. Once a horse was injured and had to be destroyed. Without a gun, there was no choice but to send for the nearest neighbour who had one — Manfred Hopey, to come and shoot the animal. Also, as a result William became the neighbourhood butcher for any family that needed fresh meat. He always kept a sharp knife. You could buy a 200 pound hog for \$4.00, so the fee was usually a roast or something of the sort.

In 1947, the family moved to S.E. 17-57-9-W4, 1 mile away. The land purchased from Emile Gosselin had originally belonged to Ernest Belter.

Although they raised some hogs, the main family income was from the cream checks for a herd of 10 to 12 Holsteins.

A large garden produced annually 5000-6000 pounds of potatoes, with the surplus being sold. Otto recalls one year at about age 14, he had dug all those mounds of potatoes but was in a hurry to go duck hunting, so he covered the pile with straw. Overnight came a heavy frost, destroying most of the pile.

Further supplements to income were such things as honey. A good year produced over 2000 pounds, and of course, wild game, such as rabbits, ducks, fish helped to liven up the menu.

Disaster struck in 1951, when the youngest son Willie, contracted polio, then diagnosed as sun-stroke, which left him partially crippled. The medi-



1950, Frank Lanferman, Mr. B. Saiger, Theo Rump, Mrs. William Siemers, John Saiger, Ida Saiger, Bernard Saiger, Walter Siemers, Agnes Saiger, Mary Lanferman, Eva Willer Sisters, ?, Mrs. Frank Lanferman, Margaret Lanferman, Fr. Lasonde, Henry Lanferman, Otto Siemers, Charlotte Saiger, Siemers children first Communion, Elsa, Ludwig, Louise, Young ones in foreground. Willie and Marie Siemers. Many Lakes School background.

cal bills (before medicare) ate up most of a year's income.

But life was not without humour. The family had a tame Bluejay, who flew away in the fall and returned the next year. They also had a tame Magpie named "Jimmy" who could talk, and of course Jimmy loved shiny objects such as nails, even if he had to pull them out of the shingles of the roof.

Mr. Talbourdet raised turkeys who occasionally toured the neighbourhood. One day they decided to go for an outing, and flew over to Mrs. Willers. But since the old gobbler wasn't really sociable, even if calling on a neighbour, he wouldn't let Mrs. Willer out of the house, until a neighbour happened by and chased him away.

At age 77, Mom is still healthy and active — remains in her own house on the same farm she has lived on since 1947. She delights in the visits of all the family and enjoys taking care of her Granddaughter Elizabeth while her mother is at work.

THE HISTORY OF DMYTRO (DAN) SIKORSKI FAMILY

by Jean Petruk

My father Dmytro (Dan) Sikorski, was born in Pszemyssel, Poland on November 8, 1890. His real name was Sikora. He had changed his name to Sikorski because of the Polish rule.

Dad's mother, Famka and step-dad Yakem Bouri lived in Stryshynshn, Pszemyssel Poland. They emigrated to Canada in 1914 with a daughter, Mary (Dymtrash), presently living in Elk Point, Alberta. They settled on a homestead in Slawa district. In 1921, Dad and his sister, Annie (Shyka) came to Canada to join their parents. It was in 1927 that Stanley (presently living in Vancouver) arrived in Canada.

Dad and Mom were married in Vermilion on May 20, 1924. Mom's maiden name was Worobec, daughter of Harry and Yadoka Worobec. Mom and her parents arrived in Canada in 1906.



Dmytro and Mary Sikorski.



Sikorski House on the Lac Bellevue Farm.

They settled on a farm in the Slawa district. Dad and Mike Sheyka, brother-in-law, bought a quarter of land together. The two families lived in a very small house together for two years, after which a large room was built on to the house. Provisions were made for separate entrances. This gave each family a private unit of their own.

Three years later, March 6, 1929, Dad and mom moved to Lac Bellevue with a family of three. They purchased the S.W. 33-55-9-4 quarter of land from the municipality for the price of taxes. The original homestead was taken by Norman Crooks, on Dec 6, 1919. The farm land was very poor — grey clay soil, with lots of rocks and hilly. I recall asking Dad what made him move to the Lac Bellevue area. His reply was that the land was plentiful with trees, which meant logs for building and wood for the fire.

With the aid of relatives and neighbors, a two room dwelling was built that year.

Dad and Mom raised a family of ten children. Listed below are the names of the children from the oldest to the youngest, along with their present residence and their families.

Steve — Olga Denega, St. Paul: Kenneth.

Stanley Sikorski, Edmonton: —

Cliff — Margaret Pomroy, Edmonton: Keneth, Brenda.



Sikorski Family at Karen's Wedding.

Elsie Boychuk, Vancouver: Joann.

Mel — Mary Crux, London, Ontario: David, Debbie.

Steve — Ann Ferby, Edmonton: —

Rose Sikorski, Vancouver: —

Jean Petruk, St. Paul: Karen Murray — Michael, Mitchell, Linda Hartley.

Ed — Nettie Sikorski, Edmonton: Dean, Tod, Shannon.

Vicky Sikorski, Edmonton: Darcy.

We attended Henley School, which was three miles away from home. We walked to school in the spring and summer and traveled by horse and sleigh in the winter. To shorten the distance we walked "cross-country" thru our land and the land owned by Mr. Gadowski. The younger ones were sent earlier, taking our lunches and books, while the older ones were held back to help with the morning chores.

We walked or traveled by horseback for the mail every Saturday afternoon. While on the way for the mail, we would help dad set the "nets" at Lac Bellevue Lake. Dad would tend to the nets while we would go to fetch the mail. On the way back, we would help Dad pull the nets out and receive the evening supper.

As years progressed, three more quarters of land were purchased. Dad passed away on December 3, 1959. The land was turned over to Stanley. He continued farming for eight years. He then decided to search for an easier occupation. On November 25, 1967 he decided to move to Edmonton. He rented the land out for three years. He then made a decision that he would not return to the farm and sold the land to Joe Thom in 1976. Joe Thom still owns the home quarter and another one. He released the other two quarters to the Community Pasture.

As I look back to our past, it comes to mind that due to the poor quality of land with many rocks and

hills, it was very difficult to make any quick financial gains. But, it also brings back many fond and joyous memories. One of which was customary to celebrate days like (Ukrainian) St. Peters, St. Johns, St. Micheal's, Dmytro and others. It was a treat to climb into the wagon or sleigh and go visiting on such occasions. The annual local picnics were always great.

Another memorable occasion was the blueberry season for our family. During the season many relatives and friends from Slawa and Myrnam would come out to pick blueberries and visit at the same time.

MR. AND MRS. ALPHONSE SIMON

by Eugenie (Ouellet) McCullough

The story of Alphonse Eugene Simon begins in Western France. He was born on February 9th, 1893, in the small village of "St. Georges de Rex", Compté des deux Sèvres (Sèvres Niortaise and Sèvres Nantaise). These two Rivers are offshoots (tributaries) of the Loire River. He was the only son of Clementine Caquineau and Gustave Simon. His childhood recollections of France were of a frugal way of life. His parents were working peasants. He recalled that, at six years of age, his task was to take the cows to pasture in the morning and bring them back in the afternoon. To get there, he would have to cross a creek and inevitably got soaking wet each time. He also helped his mother to clean dandelions, which sold commercially for a penny per gunny-sackful. Their home on the West edge of the Loire Valley was very simple, with the barn attached to the family dwelling area. This was the custom of the countries in Europe, and in certain areas are still seen today.

Alphonse Simon, with his two sisters, Aglaé and Julia, acquired a good education. At the age of



Marie-Louise Simon — June 25, 1977.

thirteen, he apprenticed with his uncle, Eugene Caqueneau, at the trade of carpentry, attaining his Journeyman's papers. His Uncle was a stern and exacting man, demanding much of his young nephew in building cabinets, wagons and accurately reading blueprints. He worked long hours, from 6:00 a.m. to approximately 8:00 p.m., with a short break for meals. It is often the impression that everyone in France had wine with all their meals. It was not the custom in the Simon family, or at the apprentice shop of his Uncle. In the morning there was "café au lait"; at the other meals, they drank water or milk. There was French bread, cheese and fresh vegetables. The Loire Valley, being a fertile land, produced fine gardens and grain. They had chickens and pork.

When Alphonse was 17 years old, his parents decided to emigrate to Western Canada, where they heard that homesteads were available. Alphonse and his father came ahead, sailing from the Port of Bordeaux, France, on February 28th, 1910, on the S.S. Corinthian. They landed at St. John, N.B. Later, his mother, along with his sister, Julia and her husband, Henri Jallot (both school teachers), followed. Their children, Michel and baby Rachel completed the party.

The Simon family took a homestead in Beauvallon (S.W. ¼ 4-55-10-W4), and proceeded, like all other pioneers, to clear their land through long hours of back-breaking labour. They had two oxen

to hitch to the plow; these strong, faithful animals plodded along throughout the week, turning the soil. On Sundays, they were again hitched to the wagon for the Simon's to attend Church in the village; sometimes they went to Brosseau for supplies. After settling the homestead as well as they could with the equipment they had, Alphonse and his father went to Saskatoon to work for a farmer in that area. They worked all Fall, and returned to Beauvallon with a small amount of money. However, in those days, much was acquired with a few dollars. In 1913, he was saddened by the death of his sister, Julia.

When the Grand Truck Railroad was being built, Alphonse worked for a time on it. He recalled being at Alberta Beach and Lac Ste. Anne, as the railroad went through that area. He applied for Canadian Naturalization papers. This Certificate was received from the Supreme Court of Alberta Judicial District of Edmonton, on September 3rd, 1914. He was now a Canadian citizen.

When the First World War broke out, Alphonse volunteered to enlist in the Canadian Army. He was advised that, although he was a citizen of both countries, he would certainly be sent to serve in France. Also, if someday he ever wished to return to domicile or visit in France, it was in his interest to join the French Army. Knowing that his mother and father had a great longing to return and spend their remaining years in France, Alphonse set sail for France in 1914.

He was soon at the Front of the Infantry, sloshing through the mud and digging trenches. He met the onslaught of death and shellfire with courage and strength, as only soldiers under those terrible conditions can understand. Later on, as a telephonist, he was in charge, and operating telephonic equipment of great importance for transmitting signals and messages to headquarters. He was also adept at Morse Code.

He was wounded in 1915 at Ypres, when hit by a shell and hospitalized for a time. He then returned to the Front. In 1916, at Verdun, during a crucial time when the wires were cut down, thus ending communications, Alphonse Simon volunteered to repair the line. This he did, under direct and prolonged shellfire. After completing his task, under incredible danger to himself, he jumped (while still holding the end of a small ball of wire) into what he thought was a trench, only to find that it was an abandoned well. He sank in mud and slime up to his waist, only to discover that he was back-to-back with an enemy soldier who must have been there for some time, as he died shortly afterwards. For two days, Alphonse remained in the well. He felt certain that here, in this situation, he too would soon die. (He was 23 years old.)

He could hear the shellfire overhead; though he called, no one came, or heard him. Each hour

became an eternity! Early on the third day, French soldiers, looking for the missing, as well as picking up the dead and wounded, were following the line. They saw a length of wire, and called down the well, "Is anyone alive down there?" To their surprise, there was an answer, as he identified himself to his compatriots.

The soldiers tied strips of tenting together and lowered it down. Alphonse tied this as best he could and just as his broken lower body was released from the water and mud, the makeshift rope broke! Down he fell, his head falling forward into the mud. Feeling faint, and choking, he still managed to raise his head to push away the mud, and remained conscious. He was told to keep up his courage while soldiers went back some distance to get real ropes. Again, there was a delay of several hours! On their return, ropes were lowered; although barely conscious by now, he managed to tie it securely. As gently as they could, they raised him. On arriving at the top, he managed a few words of thanks and lost consciousness.

He next regained consciousness in the hospital, where he remained for six months, lying on an air-filled mattress. In addition to a broken pelvis, his left leg was also broken in two places. (When it healed, it was shorter than the right leg.) For years afterward, abscesses would form and break in his lower back. After his lengthy stay in the hospital, he was declared unfit to return to combat duty, due to his wounds. He was discharged, but had to remain in France for continued check-ups and treatment.

France acknowledged his heroism (though he would be the last one to admit to that description of himself). He was awarded the Croix de Guerre, merit Medal, and Citations, for bravery above and beyond the call of duty. These documents from the Commanding Officers of the 155th Regiment of the French Republic, attesting to his outstanding bravery, are respectfully treasured by Marie-Louise Simon and the family.

He returned to Canada in 1918, leaving le Havre on June 15th, sailing from Bordeaux on the French

liner, S.S. Rochambeau, and arriving in New York on June 27th. From Vegreville, he came to Duvernay on the mail stage coach. He was going to walk from Duvernay to Beauvallon. When François-Xavier Lapierre heard this, he insisted on hitching his team to the buggy and drove Alphonse to Beauvallon for his reunion with his mother and father; they embraced him, kissing him on both cheeks in the French custom.

Mr. Lapierre stayed overnight with his daughter, Marie-Louise, before returning to Duvernay the next morning. She was married to Eugene Ouellet, who was then teaching in Beauvallon school. Marie-Louise tended their growing family and their little country store, which contained groceries and dry goods. In 1918, when the epidemic of Spanish 'flu was rampant throughout Canada and other parts of the world, Marie-Louise's husband became ill with the dread disease and passed away on December 20th; she was widowed at 26 years of age. She had three daughters, and was expecting their fourth child. This was a most difficult time in her life. In those days, there were no benefits for widows. After the birth of her fourth daughter, Marie-Louise went to work for Mr. and Mrs. Ord Wagner in Vegreville. Later on, she worked in the Café at the Alberta Hotel.

In 1919, Alphonse Simon was Municipal Councillor in Beauvallon. During this period, he found carpentry work in Vegreville. Their mutual friendship and admiration for each other became love; he and Marie-Louise were married on November 20th, 1920. They returned to Beauvallon to the farm, with the four Ouellet girls — Irene (7), Albina (5), Thérèse (3) and Eugénie (14 months). Eugénie Jean was born May 6th, 1922, and lived only one month. With the assistance of his friend, Edmund Loiselle, Alphonse tearfully built the tiny coffin; Marie-Louise lined it with white satin, and linen which "Grandemère" Simon had loomed in France. The tiny infant was buried on June 12th, in the Catholic cemetery at Brosseau.

Alphonse and Marie-Louise moved to Duvernay. On October 2nd, 1924, their second son, George-Aimé Gerard, was born. The same year, Alphonse's elderly parents, Mr. and Mrs. Gustave Simon, returned to France, to be close to their remaining daughter, Mrs. Leon (Aglaré) Prunier, who had stayed in France. In 1925, Alphonse's niece, Rachel Jallot (15 years old) came to live with them for about a year. They also opened their hearts and home to Marie-Louise's two pre-school nieces, Hermine and Angèle Lapierre, for several months.

In 1927, Alphonse and Marie-Louise moved from Duvernay to Trail, B.C., where carpentry work was available. In 1929, they returned to Duvernay. Mr. Sigefroid Labrecque informed them of a farm that was available in the Chesterville district. They decided to buy the ½-section (S.¼



Rose De Lima Barnes (90 yrs) and Marie-Louise Simon (85 yrs) Two sisters.

4-56-10-W4). This farm had approximately 20 acres broken on it many years previously, when it had been owned by Mr. Lessard. A house had to be built immediately; Alphonse cut and peeled logs, and built a large, 2-storey house. A few years later, he built an addition to the house, so that there would be a large kitchen and an additional room upstairs.

The 1930's were the Great Depression years and times were hard. The fields were cleared and plowed with horses; many rocks had to be picked. Sometimes, after picking all day, one only had to look around to realize that there were just as many to pick the next day, and the next Marie-Louise helped with this back-breaking work. Twice daily, they milked about 8 cows and fed the pigs and chickens. The hay had to be put up. The work on the farm was always endless. There was no electricity. The clothes were washed on a scrubbing-board.

At the East end of the farm (a mile away), a lovely creek flowed across its width. This creek was a source of delight to the family. The creek was heavily shaded by overhanging willows. Large chunks of ice would remain along the edge until June. We Ouellet girls, along with "papa" Simon and George-Aimé, would walk there, fill a gunny-sack with ice and bring it home. "Maman" Simon would prepare the cream, milk, eggs and vanilla. Ice Cream! How good it tasted! We would all take turns at rotating the handle on the wooden bucket, packing the crushed ice, and adding the salt around the precious 2-quart container. After continuously turning the handle for an hour, we had earned and were rewarded with the most delicious, home-made ice-cream. Dad generally got the paddle, on which hung huge gobs of the delicious frozen dessert.

The creek afforded other interesting moments and educational lessons on the beauty of nature as well. "Dad" Simon would bring the attention of the children to the musical sound of water rippling over the small stones and pebbles on the bottom. He would also find some small waterfalls which were admired and listened to. We picked the watercress which he had planted along its edges. (This made a tasty salad.) Often he would make small boats for his young son, George-Aimé. On a Sunday afternoon, many pleasant hours were spent watching these float down the little waterfalls and along the creek, hoping they wouldn't get caught and stalled along the way. These were Depression Years, and hard times, but there were so many "happy times" on the farm at the Simon home.

All the children, except Irene (the eldest) attended school in the Chesterville district. We walked, or rode horseback, two and half miles. In the winter, we went with the horse and cutter, which Dad built, or he would drive us if the weather was too cold. Lafond was the closest village (7 miles

away); that is where we attended Church and received our mail. Groceries were bought from Lafreniere's Store. The years went by with music and merriment with both relatives and friends. The three older girls married . . . Irene to Michel Jallot, Albina to Alcide Foisy, and Thérèse to Richard (Dick) Chester.

On September 13th, 1933, Alphonse and Marie-Louise were blessed with a daughter, Angèle Blanche. Her arrival was a great excitement and pleasure for all the family. In 1934, Alphonse Simon returned to Trail, B.C. to work. Money was scarce on the farm, and carpenters were needed in Trail. He spent about six months there, sending money back for the family.

The farm was not producing as well as it should. The crop yield was poor. One Fall, there was a great deal of rust, affecting the grain. There was no market for anything; prices for eggs were from .05¢-to-.10¢ per dozen, but there were few buyers. Beef was at an all-time low. Farmers were grateful for their gardens. At least there was always something to eat. Alphonse supplemented the farm income by working at odd carpentry jobs around Lafond. He built the Municipal Office there (about 1935).

During elections, he was often Deputy Returning Officer, while Marie-Louise assumed the duties of Poll Clerk. He was also Secretary for the Chesterville School district in 1936 and part of 1937. Edgar McCullough filled this position when Alphonse packed his carpenter tools once again, and went to work in B.C., where there was a building boom. A whole new town (Warfield) was built near Rossland.

On June 28th, 1937, the youngest Ouellet daughter, Eugenie, was married to Edgar McCullough. They remained to do the farm work, while Marie-Louise, with George-Aimé and Angèle, joined her husband in Rossland. They returned to the farm in 1938; George-Aimé and Angèle continued their schooling in Chesterville. By now, George-Aimé was very helpful to his father, on the farm, and there was progress. They were operating both farms — Beauvallon, as well as the home place in Chesterville — and therefore, were still working very hard. After the war, Alphonse had a lame left leg; as the years went by, this limp became more pronounced, causing back pains.

In 1942, Alphonse again wished to work at his trade. The war effort was on, and carpenters were needed in Edmonton, Alberta. At 18, his son, George-Aimé, had joined the Canadian Army, and the farm work had become too hard to handle alone. Their daughter, Thérèse, and son-in-law, Dick Chester, took over the farm.

He found work immediately with Alton & Anderson Construction. Apart from a short period in Port Radium, and later, in Hinton, he worked in

the Edmonton area. His wife and daughter, Angèle, joined him in Edmonton, and for a few months, lived with Eugenie and her two little boys. Her husband, Edgar McCullough, was overseas, in the Army, at the time. Accommodations in Edmonton were most difficult to find during the war. Every place was filled with families of Army, Navy or Airforce personnel. There were many Americans, as well as Australians, and New Zealanders, training at various depots. Alphonse and Marie-Louise bought a lot and built their home. Here they remained for the rest of their lives.

In 1945, Alphonse underwent a serious operation for the removal of one kidney; he made a remarkable recovery, and was soon back at work. (He was then 52 years old.) In the ensuing years, Alphonse Simon worked for the Government of Alberta as a Superintendent, on such Edmonton buildings as The Highways Building, the Terrace Building, and the Jubilee Auditorium.

In 1947, when only Angèle was still at home, Marie-Louise's 90-year-old father, F.X. Lapierre entered a nursing home. However, in a short while, he indicated that he would prefer to live with his daughter and son-in-law. Alphonse assured his wife of his constant help and support, if she wished to care for her father in the twilight of his life. Mr.



Alphonse and Marie-Louise Simon in the 60's.

Lapierre lived with them until the time of his death at 102 years of age. He became blind when he was 97 years old. When he was 101, he suffered a stroke, which left him bedridden. When he passed away in 1959, he was the eldest of 5 generations, the youngest being Glenn Chester. Marie-Louise and Alphonse (with Angèle's help) cared for his every need to the very end, in their own home.

In the summer of 1948, Alphonse and Angèle went to B.C. to console Albina and her family, whose berryfarm was ravaged by the flood; they also visited Irene in the hospital. On October 30th, of the same year, George-Aimé married Helen Hudson. They shared the paternal dwelling until their second child was born.

Alphonse stayed in the work force until 70 years of age (1963). He now had leisure time to pursue his hobby of card-playing with the family, or putter in his garden, yard, or garage workshop; thus he enjoyed the fruits of his labours. After his retirement, he and his wife made several trips to Montreal to visit their son, George-Aimé, his wife Helen, and their 3 children, Paulette, Gerard (Gerry), and Gaye. (George-Aimé was Distribution Manager for Hudson's Bay Co — "La Baie" — in Montreal and several surrounding cities.) They visited Eastern U.S.A., the Maritimes and Expo '67. They also made trips to New Westminster, B.C. and Lillooet, B.C., to visit their daughters Irene and Albina, and their families, who by now, were all well established.

In 1968, Alphonse suffered a series of strokes and passed away on November 14th, just 6 days before his 48th wedding anniversary. He was buried in Holy Cross Cemetery in Edmonton.

On April 19th, 1969, Angèle married George Kathrein; they have two children, Simon and Sandra. They continue to live with "Maman" Simon in her home. They are a source of help and comfort to her.

On April 19th, 1980, Marie-Louise experienced the sorrowful loss of her remaining son, George-Aimé. She, along with his wife, and other members of the family, was at his side in his final hours; she held his hand and prayed. Again, her Faith and courageous strength sustained her, as it continues to do so in this 88th year of her life. (She was born on June 25th, 1892) She is now the head of 5 generations, the youngest of which is Benjamin Chester.

GEORGE AIME SIMON

by Helen Y. Simon

George Aime was born to Marie Louise and Alphonse Simon on October 2nd, 1924, at Duvernay, Alberta. The birth was attended by Dr. Charles Hardy of Brosseau, Alberta.



Wedding picture of George Aime Simon and Helen Yvonne Simon (nee Hudson) Oct. 30, 1948.

When George was 1½ years old, the family moved to Trail, B.C. and in 1928 returned to Duvernay. In the spring of 1929, they again moved. This time to Chesterville, Alberta to farm one half of Section 4. George started school there in 1931. His teacher was Mr. Elphege Lafleur. When he was nine years old, he welcomed a baby sister, whom he had the privilege to name Angele. At the age of 12, he and family moved to Rossland, B.C. where they lived for only the summer months as his father had work there. Chesterville drew them back again that fall. George Aime was needed to help on the farm and attended school until he was 15 years old.

His 13th birthday present from his parents was a 22 rifle which enabled him to hunt. For three partridges, he received 25¢ from the Lafond store. With this money he would buy shells for his gun. Another gift was a goat on his 14th birthday, which was exchanged for his first Mandolin. This he learned to play by himself. His parents also gave him a guitar.

While hauling hay one winter, from Beauvallon to Chesterville, a distance of 12 miles one way, with the temperature 50 degrees below, George froze his feet and was later to lose half a toe. He helped to saw stove wood later, that same day.

At the age of 18, he enlisted in the Tank Corps of the Canadian (active) Army. He couldn't leave his

guitar behind and was to entertain his buddies along the way. He was discharged in 1943, as he was having problems with his feet, because of them being so badly frozen years before. By this time his parents were residing in Edmonton and he was able to assist his father in the building of their present home. Along with another chap, he took on the task of painting houses until a job with C.P.A. came along. He was a jack-of-all-trades. This career took him up North to such places as Fort St. John, Fort Nelson and Watson Lake.

He returned to Edmonton at the end of 1945. In 1946 he went to work for the C.N.R. Bridge crew.

In 1944, George was to first lay eyes on the girl (Helen Hudson) whom fate seemed to throw together through the following years. On October 30, 1948 (Hallowe'en) they were married in St. Joseph's Cathedral, Edmonton. They were blessed with a baby girl, Paulette Yvonne in 1949. That year, George, being employed by the Hudson's Bay Co., went from swamper on a delivery truck to Engineer in the boiler room, supplementing the family income by delivering parcels in the evening for Simpsons. In 1950 a son, Gerard Alphonse was born. Meanwhile things began to progress for George. The opportunity opened up for him to become temporary supervisor in the HBC Service Centre, giving him added experience. His talents did not go unnoticed by the higher-ups. He was approached with the offer to become Salesman in the Rug Department and being on commission, did very well. He later became Manager of the Marking Room and then on to managing the Service Centre. In 1957, another baby girl, Gaye Louise was born to complete their family.

A big decision had to be made in 1963. Would George go to Montreal, Quebec and manage a new Service Centre there? Of course, no one steps in front of a go-getter. Within a month he was in Montreal managing the Marking Room until the Service Centre was completed in the winter of 1964.



George Aime Simon's son and daughter — Gerard Alphonse Simon — Gaye Louise Simon.



Four Generations: George Aime Simon, Marie Louise Simon, Scott Davies, Paulette Davies (nee Simon).

Fifteen years of hard work in Montreal, giving the HBC his all, soon took a toll on his health. He underwent an operation in the spring of 1978. They were also years of happiness and many holiday trips to Newfoundland, the Maritimes, Florida and New Orleans with about 8 trips across Canada to visit relatives in Edmonton. George and his family, which had dwindled down to his wife and Gaye, were transferred back to Calgary, Alberta in September, 1978, to take over management of the Service Centre there. The year wore on and George's health began to fail. That didn't prevent him from becoming Operation's Manager of South Centre HBC Store. He had terminal cancer but being a very strong person, he strove to keep at his work until January, 1980. He moved his family, with the help of a lot of dear friends and relatives, to Edmonton on April 4th and he passed away April 19th, 1980.

George Aime will never be forgotten.

Paulette, born September 28, 1949, married Bruce Davies on October 31, 1970 (Hallowe'en). He is the only son of Mrs. Winnifred Davies and the late Col. Jack Davies, who was President of the British Commonwealth Games and had passed away 2 weeks before he was to officiate at the Edmonton

Games in 1978. Paulette works for International Development Research Centre in Ottawa and Bruce is with IBM. They have 2 boys — Scott, born November 23, 1976 and Timothy, born June 16, 1978. They reside in Cumberland, Ontario.

Gerard, born October 13, 1950, is not married but has his own home at White Rock, B.C. He works for Boom Chain Transportation in Vancouver, B.C.

Gaye, born March 7, 1959, is sharing an apartment with her mother in Edmonton and works at a Goodwill Centre.

ADAM SKAKUN

by Metro Chrapko

Adam Skakun was born on August 19, 1915 to Andronik and Martha Skakun (nee Arychuk). He grew up in the Luzan district on his parents' farm. After Ranook School was built, about 1924 he went to school there till he was 13 years old.

After his father died there was no more time for Adam to continue school. He had to help his mother keep the farm and family going. Whenever he was not farming at home, he would go out to work for local farmers in the district. He remembers working for 25¢ per day. Those were the going rates in those days and children had to grow up in a hurry.

One bit of luxury that Adam allowed himself occurred when he was about 12 years old. He was at a dance just looking on when a fight broke out. Adam hid himself under a wagon or buggy to observe this event. As the battle progressed someone pulled a knife and stabbed the opponent. Adam was called as a witness to the trial and his vivid description and testimony of the event prompted the judge to give Adam a small reward. Adam purchased a bicycle with the proceeds and was the envy of all the children in the vicinity.



Taken — 1933. Adam Skakun.

After his younger brother Bill was old enough to take over the farming operation at home, Adam at 19 bought his farm, the S.W. ¼ 33-56-11-W4th at Foisy. He farmed and batched there on his own for two years, then on October 15, 1936 married Nidia Ternovoy, the daughter of Alex and Mary Ternovoy of Foisy.

Adam and Nidia kept up with the times. It was fun to visit them and listen to the old R.C.A. Victor phonograph — the one with the large horned speaker that you had to hand crank to wind up the drive spring before the record ended and change the needle after only a few records. Another thing that was fun doing when the adults weren't watching and if you were "a bit naughty" was to listen in on the party line telephone that they had on their farm. It was the type that you hooked on the barbed wire fence and on a cold, clear winter's evening when the wires tightened up from the frost the reception was excellent!

Many in the district will remember Adam's horse "Sparky", the best wild, bucking bronc in the area. Sparky entertained many crowds at the Saddle Lake Stampede and embarrassed many aspiring bronc busters.

Memories also bring back Nidia singing, either solo or in harmony with her sister, Rita. It was beautiful!

Their son David and daughter Deanna were born while Adam and Nidia were still on the farm.

In 1946 Adam decided to venture into the business world and bought the A & B Cafe at St. Paul in partnership, then about 1948, the Lavoie Cafe. He left the restaurant business in 1950 to go into another partnership in the Case Implement dealership. In 1952 he opened up his own shop and went into the tire business. He went again into partnership in a combined I.H.C. implement dealership and tire shop in 1962. For the next 3 years he managed the tire end of the business, while his partners managed the implement end. Then in 1965 Adam established another tire shop independently and operated a very successful business until 1977 when he retired.

David married Olive Code of Oyen in 1963. Olive had been working in Athabasca as a public health nurse. They have one daughter, Gwen and two sons, David and Sheldon. David followed in his father's footsteps and started up Dave & Richards Tire Shop with his friend in 1960 at Lac La Biche.

Deanna married Robert Blais October 8, 1978 and they have one daughter, Raylene. She has two daughters from a previous marriage, Chantel and Stacey. Robert works with the C.N.R. and the family lives in St. Paul.

Adam and Nidia are enjoying their retirement in St. Paul.

BILL SKAKUN

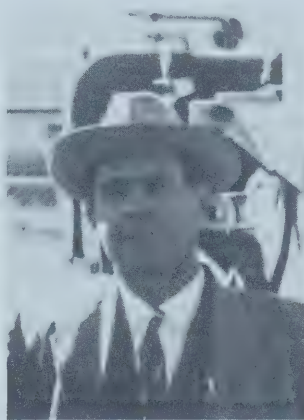
by Metro Chrapko

Bill Skakun, the youngest of the family was born in 1917 to Andronik and Martha Skakun (nee Arychuk).

He grew up on the family homestead, the S.W. ¼ 36-55-11-W4th and started school at age 7 at

Ranook, then while staying at his sister's, Jennie Logozar, attended two years at Mamaestie School. He quit school at 13 years of age and went to work for farmers near Milk River for the summer of 1930.

His father died later that Fall and Bill stayed on the homestead to help his mother and brother Adam. The Depression of the 30s was on and times were difficult. Martha and the two boys struggled farming and earning money from whatever other source of work they could find. In 1934 Adam moved to Foisy where he bought his own farm and Bill stayed on with his mother on the homestead. The land was marginal and it was difficult to make a go of it.



Bill Skakun.

About 1938, Bill married Medoria Holinsky, a local girl and the daughter of Wasel (Bill) and Anna Holinski. They bought a farm the S.W. 6-57-10-W4th about the same year and moved approximately one mile West of Lafond. There their three children were born, Barney and the twins Juliane and Johnny. Bill's mother also moved to Lafond.

The land was better at Lafond. Bill opened up more land. To pay his debts or get work done with machinery he could not yet provide, Bill would give of himself, his energy for tractor power.

One Summer when Bill wanted to get some work done on his farm and his brother-in-law, John Chrapko wanted to go with his wife Eva on a summer trip to B.C. they agreed that he would use John's caterpillar and implements to do his own field work in return for doing John's summer fallow. He finished his fields, then moved to John's and wanting to finish before they returned, he went nonstop for 3 days and nights. He finished, got to bed and flaked out. For a while, it looked like he would need to be hospitalized.

Bill made friends easily and got along well with his neighbors. On one occasion the men who belonged to the Catholic Community at Lafond were trying to raise funds for their church. They decided to hold an arm wrestling contest at Lafreniere's store at two bits a throw. The contest was in progress when Bill appeared on the scene. Bill

rolled up his sleeves and went to work. One by one he beat his opponents. Some in the room became concerned because Bill was not of their faith and the money that was to go to the church was slowly but surely dwindling. Bill took on all comers and wrestled them down. When there were no more takers left, he painfully rolled down his sleeves, picked up the money and turned it over to the group to donate to the church. If memory serves me correctly, he won about \$3.50 that night and a number of admiring friends.

Things gradually improved on the farm but as farming goes, with each improvement or purchase of machinery, more money is required to pay for it. The children recall Bill leaving home in 1945 to work in the mines at Drumheller with their uncles, Harry and George Holinski.

After selling his farm in 1948, Bill decided to try his hand at business and went into partnership with his brother Adam in the Lavoie Cafe at St. Paul. His mother's house was moved and she moved to stay at Mary and Pat Rosychuk's. This business venture lasted for 1½ years, then he bought the Foisy Store in 1950 at its original site, 2 miles South and one East from where it stands now.

He sold and moved his family back to St. Paul in 1951 where he worked for the M.D. of St. Paul, building roads. In the off season he went to Smithers, B.C. to work in the logging camps, then returned again to work for the M.D. of St. Paul.

1952 was the year that was to affect the family's lives forever. Medoria caught cold and it progressively worsened. She went first to hospital at St. Paul then Elk Point and finally to the Aberhart Memorial Hospital in Edmonton where she passed away in July 1953. Barney was 13 and the twins were 11 years old at the time. After she died, Johnny and Julie went to stay at Medoria's sister, Mary and John Marchenko's until they graduated in 1960 from the Two Hills High School. Barney stayed with his father for a while, then with people at St. Paul. At 15 years of age he left to go to work on his own.

Bill stayed on with the M.D. of St. Paul, road building, gradually moving up to "patrol" (motor grader) and crew foreman. He took his work seriously and was a top grade finisher. Many in the district will recall Bill on the motor grader grading in summer and snowplowing roads in winter. He wasn't one to take things easy and didn't mind changing the blades on his "patrol." Whenever he got behind the wheel and levers he would make that patrol "snort" and after he had gone by you knew Bill was the "operator" by the results.

Bill was remarried in 1966 to Mary Harasym (nee Wertypora). Mary had seven children when she was widowed, Olga, Johnny, Norman, Noreen, Fern, Gloria, and Jerry. Her children are all married.

In 1967 Bill and Mary moved to Fort McMurray where Bill worked at the tar sands. He was one of

the original group of men to go to Fort McMurray when the Great Canadian Oil Sands (G.C.O.S.) started up in the tar sands. He worked as a motor grader operator, training supervisor and blaster.

After retiring from G.C.O.S. in 1978, he and his wife moved back to St. Paul.

Barney married Julie Prenevost, the daughter of Albert and Blanche (nee Drouin). They have three children, Gregory, Brian and Cindy. Barney is in partnership in the Arcade business in Quesnel, B.C.

Juliane married Val Lopatka, son of Anastasia and John Lopatka in 1962. Val is employed with Celanese Canada in Edmonton. They have two children, Laureen and Gordon.

Johnny and Eleanor, his wife since 1965 have two children. Trevor and Margo. Johnny is a Petty Officer in the Canadian Navy and the family lives in Victoria, B.C.

MARY SKAKUN

by Metro Chrapko

Mary Skakun was born December 6, 1895 to Andronik and Martha Skakun (nee Arychuk) at Shepenitz, Bukowina, Ukraine.

The Ukraine had been taken over and was under the Austrian-Hungarian Empire. Taxes were exacted on the citizens by the new landlords and in order not to lose ones chattels or whatever property one might have, people had to work for the landlords to pay their dues. At 14 years of age, Mary went to work at a sugar beet factory in winter and in the beet fields in summer. She remembers being left behind by the other workers in the field because she was trying to do a good job of weeding and was cleaning weeds others left untouched. The landlord's overseer, not looking to see the weeds others left behind and what Mary was attempting to do, cursed her viciously. Mary did this work until her parents and family left for Canada in 1912.

Mary was 16 years of age when she came to Canada. She recalls being greeted at the Vegreville station by Bill Meroniuk, her mother's uncle and Hrehory Werenka. From Vegreville the family went to stay at Bill Meroniuk's approximately 1 mile west and two miles north of Two Hills. Later that summer they moved to stay for a while at Anne and Fedor Melnyk's at Star, then to the homestead near Penno. The following spring the homestead at Penno was cancelled and the family moved to another homestead near Luzan on the S.W.¼ 36-55-11-W4th.

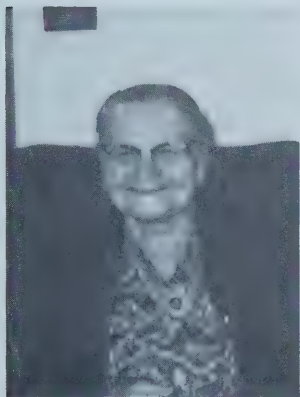
Mary helped her father build the log house on the homestead. She drilled holes for the dowels which secured the logs together while her father prepared the logs and dowels. After they finished plastering the house, Mary left for Vegreville where she took the train and went to Star to her aunt's, Annie Melnyk. She stayed there one fall and sum-

mer where she stooked for farmers, then moved to another aunt, Mary Ewasiw (Martha's sister) near Redwater.

While at Ewasiw's she married Prokop (Pat) Rosychuk in 1913. Pat was born in 1891 to Nick and Martha Rosychuk in Shepenitz, Bukowina, Ukraine and had arrived with his parents in 1901. He worked on his parent's farm as a boy, then went with his father to work in the mines at Canmore where an uncle was working. He worked as a driver until about two years before he married when he bought his land at Redwater.

After they married, Mary and Pat farmed and Pat went to the bush to earn extra income in the off season for one or two years. Mary tended the farm and family.

Mary remembers when she first came to Canada and her first attempt at stooking grain while staying at Melnyk's. She would put up a stook, it would collapse, another stook and again it would fall down, this exercise repeated itself time and again. Others in the field would have 3 or 4 rows completed and Mary was still on her first. Finally Mike Melnyk noticed her frustration, came to aid and showed her the proper technique of putting up stooks. Once she mastered it, no one could keep up to her.



Mary Rosychuk (Skakun) about 1965.

All their children, John who died as a baby, Sophie, Annie, Elizabeth (Lyz), Rose, Adam and Martha were born while Mary and Pat were at Redwater. In 1935, they sold their farm and purchased the S.E. ¼ 30-56-11-W4th from Mary's uncle, Penteley Arychuk at Foisy. Pat came in March and Mary followed in July after the children were out of school. To supplement their farm income, Pat went back for two seasons to Redwater to work and Mary, besides working on their own field, would work for farmers in the area. She picked roots, rocks and stooked for her brother-in-law, John Chrapko, her neighbor Emile Swersawski and others in the neighborhood. During harvest many would see her stooking late into the night while her children slept. In 1942, when Adam was older and could look after the farm, Pat went to work at the Prince Rupert

shipyard for three years. He was able to pay off the land with what he earned.

Mary could put many men to shame, the way she worked. She would not hesitate to pick up a hammer or saw if anything needed repairs, an axe to cut or split wood, twist binder twine into a rope or do any of a number of tasks normally expected of a man. Her hands were never idle and "spare time" was foreign to her. After her work outside was finished and the supper dishes done, Mary would start what many would consider a chore. She would sit by the lamp light drawing feathers for down pillows or card and spin wool into yarn she used for the woolen garments she knitted for her family. She wasted nothing. Any clothing material that was beyond further use she would cut in strips and use these to make into "rugs" on her hand powered loom.

Their son Adam farms the land now and until recently Mary and Pat stayed on the farm at Foisy. In 1977, Mary moved to the Eventide Senior Citizen Home in Two Hills and in 1979 Pat followed. Should you happen to visit Mary, she will no doubt be beside her loom weaving rugs and she will greet you with that dear, sweet smile.

Sophie Rosychuk married Mike Kruse in 1930 at Redwater. They moved together with Mary and Pat



Five generations of Skakun. Extreme left Martha Skakun 85 years of age. Back row: Great Granddaughter Nettie Melnychuk 25, Granddaughter Sophie Kruse 44. Front row: Martha Skakun, Great, Great Granddaughter Belinda Melnychuk 5 yrs. of age and daughter Mary Rosychuk age 65. Taken — 1960.

in 1935 to Foisy and farmed the S.W.¼ 27-56-11-W4th. Sophie passed away in 1963. Mike moved to Edmonton about 1965 and is in a nursing home there. They had three children, Nick, Nettie and Patricia.

Nick married Mary Eluik, daughter of Dymetro and Katie Eluik in 1950. Nick is employed at St. Paul Sales and Service. They have 4 children, Dennis, Donna, Cheryl and Tracy.

Dennis married Betty Bawden and they have one son, Kurtis.

Donna married Armand Tessier and have 2 children, Melissa Merry and Jason Jared.

Cheryl is a hairdresser in St. Paul and Tracy is still at home.

Nettie married Andrew Melnychuk and lives in Kamloops, B.C. Andy is employed as a mechanic and they have 3 children, Belinda, Janet and Lyle.

Patricia is married to Ray Masse and live with their children, Joey and Tery at Sherwood Park.

Annie Rosychuk married Alex Ternovoy in 1940. They moved to Prince Rupert, B.C. in 1942 where Alex was a welder in the shipyard. Anne took up sewing and later opened a Singers Sewing Machine Store. Alex passed away in 1967. They had 4 daughters, Sandra, Diane, Sonia and Gail.

Sandra married John Leniuk who works at the pulp mills. They have two sons and a daughter, Douglas, Terry and Darcy and live with their family in Prince Rupert.

Diane married Jim Blyte and they live in Port Edward, B.C. Jim is a welder and Diane works with her mother at the Singers Store.

Sonia married and lives with her children, Derek and Lea in Prince Rupert.

Gail and her husband Peter who is an electrician live in Fort St. John, B.C.

Elizabeth (Lyz) Rosychuk married Peter Boyko in 1940. They farmed for a while with his parents on the S.W.¼ 18-56-11-W4th near Brosseau, then in 1942 moved to Prince Rupert where Peter worked as a carpenter in the shipyards. They came back to Brosseau in 1943, then in 1947 moved to Vancouver where Peter built homes and was a finishing carpenter. Lyz remained in Vancouver after Peter passed away in 1975. They had 3 children, twin boys Jim and Jerry and a daughter, Judy.

Both boys are building contractors. Jim married Sandra Brown. They live in Kamloops with their children, Darren, Darlys and Desree.

Jerry married Joan Maxwell. They have a daughter Shay and son Chad. The family makes their home at 100 Mile House, B.C.

Judy married Hod Veil and have one child, Collin Michael. They operate their own colographic business in Vancouver.

Rose Rosychuk married Nick Eliuk of Two Hills in 1942. They went to Prince Rupert for a year then returned to farm with Nick's parents on the N.W.¼

31-54-12-W4th. They have 3 children, Donald, and twin daughters Gloria and Gladys.

Donald and his wife Adella live in Prince Rupert with their family, Nicol and Krista from Adella's former marriage and their daughter, Mary Anne. Donald is employed at the Government Grain elevators there. Gladys married Gary Rauschenberger, a refrigeration engineer. They have two sons, Darby and Michael and live in Post Edward, B.C. Gloria married Dieter Lehmann, an accountant. They have two boys, Jason and Derek and live in Prince George, B.C.

Adam Rosychuk married Anne Eliuk in 1949. They farm the home quarter at Foisy and the N.W.¼ 20-56-11-W4th on which they live and which they purchased from Nick Pundick. They have one son, Terry. Terry married Sonia Burhulke. They live in Peace River and have one son, Greg.

Martha Rosychuk married George M. Pawliuk in 1948 and farmed on the E.½ 26-55-13-W4th near Kaleland which was formerly owned by his parents, Metro and Mary Pawliuk. They have three daughters, Deborah, Marilyn and Cynthia.

Debbie married Les Reynolds. They have one daughter, Tonya and live at Rocky Mountain House.

Marilyn married Darryl Sander and they live in Edmonton.

Cindy is with her parents on the farm.

MIKE SKAKUN FAMILY

by Shirley Skakun

Mike Skakun emigrated from Austria to Argentina with his family in 1909 at the age of 12. After spending 5 years in Argentina, they decided that having their crops eaten by locusts every year just wasn't worth the work, so they came to Canada in 1914. The family sailed by boat and the light of Haley's Comet. The family stayed in the Willingdon area for 2 years. In 1916 the Skakun's were on the move again when the government opened the Stoney Lake area for homesteading, Mike was able to buy his own homestead in the Lake Eliza area for \$10.00.



50th Anniversary — L-R: Mrs. Hill, Mrs. Libych, Nellie Skakun, Mike Skakun, Mrs. Popowich.



Mr. and Mrs. Skakun 50th wedding anniversary — L-R: John Drobot MC, Mary Orletsy, Hilda Drouin, Ann Norman, Arsene Skakun, Ed Skakun.

On February 5, 1922 Mike met Nellie Stetsko in St. Paul. They were married on February 19, 1922. Nellie came to Canada at the age of 3 with her family in 1906. Her parents Mike and Eustina Stetsko homesteaded in the Northern Valley area.

After Mike bought his homestead, he headed back to the Willingdon area to work as a hired hand, saving his money to buy a team of horses and build a home. After their marriage, Mike still worked as a hired hand, on the Saskatchewan railway, while Nellie cleared the land on the homestead. When Mike came home from work, he was able to break the land Nellie cleared. When Mike's job on the railway was finished, he got a job with the municipality as foreman of the road building crew. In those days, road building was done mainly by hand. The only pieces of equipment Mike remembers is a horse pulled bucket for dirt filling the sloughs, and a hand pushed plough to remove tree stumps. Mike worked 10 hours a day at 15¢ an hour.



Mike Skakun visiting his original homestead.

In 1925, the Lake Eliza people formed the Lake Eliza Community Club. Now was the time to build the Lake Eliza Community Hall out of logs. During whatever spare time Mike had, he cut and peeled all the logs for the hall from his homestead. Mike then sold the logs to the club for \$50.00. With the help of all members, the neighbors had a place for dances,

weddings, picnics, baseball games and even movie shows.

Among the joys and hardships of homesteading, Mike and Nellie were able to raise a family of 3 daughters and 2 sons. All 5 Skakun children attended the Swedeboro School. The school was on a plot of land called a school section. The land is now farmed by Ralph Kryvenchuk. The children walked about 2½ miles to school. Some of the teachers who taught the children were Mrs. Smith, Mr. Saruk, Mrs. Marcella Rawluk, and Mr. Roger McMillan. Mike and Nellie's children are:

Mary married Bill Orletsy. They had 3 sons. Mary lives in Edmonton. She was widowed in 1965.

Hilda married Lucien Drouin. They have 3 daughters and 2 sons. They live in St. Paul.

Ann married Chuck Dorman. They have 5 daughters and 3 sons. They live in Calgary.

Arsene married Lena Logoazar. They have 1 daughter and 2 sons. They live in Kamloops, B.C.

Ed married Shirley Rosychuk. They have 3 sons. They live in St. Paul.

In 1952 Mike was able to get a TD6 International caterpillar. They not only used it in their own fields, but Arsene and Ed had done brush breaking for some of their neighbors.

Mike and Nellie retired to St. Paul in 1959. Mike had done carpentry work after they moved into town and Nellie worked at the hospital. In 1972, Mike and Nellie's families and friends were able to celebrate their 50th anniversary.

As of this writing, Nellie and Mike are healthy and are enjoying their retirement in St. Paul.

PETER SKAKUN

by Metro Chrapko

Peter Skakun was born in 1901, to Andronik (Andrew) and Martha Skakun (nee Arychuk) at Shepenitz, Bukowina, Ukraine.

After his parents moved to the homestead on the S.W.¼ 36-55-11-W4th, Peter went to school at



Mr. and Mrs. Peter Skakun.

Luzan for three years until he reached 16 years of age, then left for the mines in Drumheller where he joined his older brother Metro. He worked in the mines and at other jobs in Southern Alberta until 1925. That year he purchased the S.E. ¼ 19-56-11-W4th near Foisy.

In 1927, Peter married Anna Odinsky, daughter of John and Irene Odinsky (nee Lakusta) from Laniuk, about one mile south and two miles east of Two Hills. Anna recalls "we started farming with almost nothing. The land was all bush. We cleared it little by little, plowing some with the breaking plow and horses. We hired Metro Pawliuk to break the rest of the land with a tractor. It wasn't easy as the stumps were so big they had to split them with a pick and axe".

Peter returned to mining during the winter months between 1927-1929 to pay for the farm.

Anna continues "We had four children, Ernest, Edward, Marian and Norma. Then in the 30's the depression hit. It was the hardest time for everybody, but we had lots to eat as we raised all the vegetables and all of the other things to eat. It was all healthy and fresh food. We went berry picking as far as 50 miles away with our T Ford and picked pails of blueberries and cranberries. It was fun picking them. We had bushels of saskatoons on our farm. We made all kinds of fruit and jams and didn't have to buy any.

Our nearest town was 23 miles away, St. Paul. The farmers had to take their grain with a team of horses. That was hard on people and the horses, especially in the winter time. When the railroad track went through Two Hills, the town was built. That was our nearest town then. The worst of it was that we had to cross the river on a ferry. Sometimes it took half an hour before your turn came. They couldn't take more than two loads on it. It was very slow moving. In 1931, the bridge was built and it was free travelling. The closest school was 4 miles away — Champlain. The children had to walk to school. In the winter they rode with the horse and cutter. We farmed in Foisy until 1948, then we moved to Edmonton. It was a very successful move. We farmed there until 1968 when Peter died of cancer.

It is very sad that all the Foisy pioneers are gone.

The family also recalls some of the good times when they were at Foisy and remember that Peter had the first Model A touring Ford in the district. The one you had to pull a lever to put in reverse and had curtains in the windows.

Peter was community minded and helped build the Foisy Hall. He also helped organize the Ukrainian concerts with his brothers-in-law, John Chrapko and Nick Logozar. Peter knew how to read music and taught the choral group singing and played the mandolin. Anna, a very talented artist in her own right acted in the plays, played mandolin and sang.



Back row: L-R: John Chrapko, Adam and Bill Skakun. Center: Edward, Peter Ernest, Anna Skakun and Nick Logozar. Bottom: Martha Skakun, Peter and Maggie Logozar, Eva and Clara Chrapko and Olga Logozar.

She later learned to pick guitar and one would really have to hear Anna and her twin sister Styra harmonize both in voice and with musical instruments to appreciate it. It was spine tingling.

They would travel throughout the area on their concert tours. At times they would invite other concert troupes from Edmonton and the family recalls some of the actresses billeting at Peter's and Anna's. Bazaars were another way funds were raised to pay for the building and operating of Foisy Hall. Anna would donate her finest baking for sale at these bazaars.

Many will recall stabling their horses at Peters on cold winter evenings, then walking the one mile to the dance or the baseball tournaments, picnics they were called-on Frank Smith's Farm just west of Foisy Hall.

About 1939, Peter became a school trustee for Champlain and held the position for approximately four years. About 1941 he purchased more land, the S.W. 30-56-11-W4th and in 1948 sold and moved near Edmonton.

Anna now resides in the Meadowcroft Senior Citizen's Condominiums in Edmonton. Their children are all married and settled in Alberta.

Ernest married June Wekner in 1958. They live with their family, Allan, Rick, and Sally Anne in Peace River where Ernest owns Skip's Realty. Ernest got his musical talents from his parents and played in the district with Ternovoy, Galeta and Mandrusiaks bands.

Edward married Phyllis Kabage in 1978. He has four children, Brian, Dalyce, Edward and Janice from a former marriage to Francis Switlyk whom he married in 1952. She passed away in 1978. Ed and Phyllis both are employed by the City of Edmonton, where they make their home. Ed still farms some of the land his parents purchased near Edmonton.

Brian has a son Jeremie and lives in Edmonton.

Dalyce is in England.

Edward lives and works in Edmonton.

Janice married Albert Deren and they live in Edmonton.

Marian married Ronald McDonagh in 1953. They have five children, Linda, Darrell, Susan, Peggy and Nona and all live in Edmonton. Ronald is employed by the Great West Garment Factory. Marian and her younger sister, Norma enjoy music and entertain as their parents did.

Linda is married to Al Jenkins.

Norma married Edward Reinert in 1955 and reside with their two children Christopher and Kimberly in Edmonton. Her husband is employed by Dow Chemical Canada Ltd.

SKAKUN MRS. SUZANA AND BILL

by Russell Paziuk

The Skakun homestead (S.W. 14-56-10-W4th) was located 1½ miles south and ½ mile west of the Lac Bellevue School site. The farm, as remembered by several early pioneers, had approximately ten acres of broken land in the early years. Because of misfortune and illness within the family, the farm and its operation had not progressed much during its time.

By about 1930, Mrs. Skakun remembered as being a widow, was living with her son Bill. Her husband passed away, sometime in the earlier years and shortly after their arrival in the area. It is assumed that Bill was about eight years old by the year 1930.



Mike Harmatiuk WM Skakun.

We are told that Mrs. Skakun experienced a mental breakdown and was hospitalized for about two years and Bill, because of his young age at that time, was placed in an orphanage during the time his mother was hospitalized.

Local residents recall Mrs. Skakun died from exposure one winter. It is said she had gone visiting and tragedy struck on her return trip.

Bill was about 15-16 years old when his mother passed away, and immediately was taken by some friends to work on the farm. After a short time, Bill returned to their old homestead in the Lake Bellevue area.

We're told that Bill became a mental patient as well and was admitted for treatment to Oliver Mental Hospital. From that point, information as to Bill Skakun's life is not clear.

MIKE AND MARIE-ANNA (nee Brault) SLEFENDURFAS FAMILY

by Helene Nickiforuk (nee Slefendurfas) and Eva Yakemchuk (nee Slefendurfas)

Mike Slefendurfas was born May 14, 1909 in Taurage, Luthania. In 1927, at the age of 18 he arrived in Canada and migrated to St. Paul. He could not speak a word of French or English. After working as a farm hand for different farmers in the St. Paul area and Lafond area he learned to speak both French and English fluently.

Mike met Marie Anna Brault daughter of Francois-Xavier Brault and Lovina Foisy in approximately 1930. Marie Anna was born March 4th, 1912. On August 14, 1940, they were married at the St. Brides Roman Catholic Church.

Their first home was rented from Frank Robinson for one year, then they rented a home from Evariste Gouin for 3 years. During these five years Mike worked on road construction. While Mike was out working, Marie was milking cows and feeding pigs.



The Mike Slefendurfas Family — Eva Yakemchuk, Marie, Mike, Helen Nickiforuk.

DOMINION OF CANADA

NUMBER
142926

SERIES A

THE NATURALIZATION ACT

Certificate of Naturalization

I, the undersigned Secretary of State of Canada do hereby certify and declare that (MIKE) MIKAS SLEFENDURFAS is hereby naturalized as a British subject that he is entitled to all political and other rights, powers and privileges, and subject to all obligations, duties and liabilities to which a natural born British subject is entitled or subject and that he has to all intents and purposes the status of a natural born British subject.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed the Seal of the Department of the Secretary of State of Canada, this NINTH day of JUNE 1936

THIS CERTIFICATE SHALL BE EFFECTIVE ON AND FROM NINTH DAY OF JUNE 1936

E. H. Coleman
MINISTER OF STATE

Fernand Amfies
SECRETARY OF STATE OF CANADA

Certificate of Naturalization.

Particulars

FULL NAME (MIKE) MIKAS SLEFENDURFAS

ADDRESS LAFOND, ALBERTA, CANADA

TRADE OR OCCUPATION FARM HAND

PLACE AND DATE OF BIRTH (WHEN KNOWN) TAURAGE, LITHUANIA
14TH MAY 1909

SUBJECT OF CITIZEN LITHUANIA

MARRIED SINGLE
SINGLE
WIDOWER (WIDOW)
NAME OF WIFE

PARENTS SUBJECTS OF CITIZENS LITHUANIA

AGE 27 YEARS HEIGHT 5 FEET 7 INCHES

COLOUR WHITE COMPLEXION FAIR

COLOUR OF EYES BLUE COLOUR OF HAIR FAIR

VISIBLE DISTINGUISHING MARKS LEFT THUMB OFF

COUNTERSIGNED
[Signature]
CHIEF CLERK OF NATURALIZATION

In 1945, Mike and Marie bought a quarter of land 2½ miles from Foisy and 2½ miles from Lafond. They lived in an old run down shack for two years, while building a two bedroom home. They farmed with a minimum amount of equipment, pulled by horses. Approximately 80 acres was open which they farmed for mixed grain. They kept 10 to 15 head of cattle, 50 pigs, some chickens and turkeys.



Mike and Marie Slefendurfas in 1966, in front of their beautiful maple tree.

Their social life included visiting neighbours, playing cards and attending concerts at the school and church.

Mike and Marie had two daughters. Eva was born on Sept. 20, 1948 and Helen Born on June 4th, 1954. Eva attended Lafond School for 12 years. Helen attended school in Lafond for six years and finished her grade twelve in St. Paul.

Eva married Ron Yakemchuk on September 4th, 1970. They reside in Grouard, Alberta with two children, Fay born March 16, 1971 and Keith October 27, 1973.

Helen married Wayne Nickiforuk on August 12th, 1972. They reside in St. Paul, Alberta with three children, Darcy born November 7th, 1972 Tracy born October 1st, 1974 and Pamela Helen born May 5, 1981.

Mike became ill in November of 1965. They sold their farm in 1966 and moved to St. Paul in 1967. After moving, Marie worked at Sunnyside Manor for 1½ years, St. Paul Cleaners for 3 years after which time she took up part time babysitting. Mike was unemployed because of his health. He passed away on July 19th, 1979 at the age of 70 years. Marie is presently living in her own home in St. Paul.

MR. AND MRS. MICHAEL SLYWA

by Lloyd Yaremko

Michael Slywa was born to Mr. John and Maria Slywa on October 20th, 1900. He spent his boyhood days in his native country Poland. At an early age, he began to work at various jobs in order to help support his family.

At the age of 14 years he was required to shave logs, a job which almost cost him both his hands. The muscles in the palms of both hands were so severely damaged that he was scheduled for amputation. Fearing loss of both hands, he escaped from the hospital and ran home. This was very fortunate because he recovered full use of both hands and was able to secure jobs as a carpenter in the summer and a shoemaker in winter. The carpentry trade was to become a great asset to him when he arrived in Canada.

Michael Slywa married Bessie Palagia Onuszek, daughter of Paul and Keszenia Onuszek. Bessie was born on February 5th, 1897. To them were born two boys, Michael Jr. and Nick. In April of 1928, Mr. Slywa left his wife Bessie and his two sons in native Poland in hopes of starting a new life. Upon leaving he promised 4 year old Michael Jr. and 3 year old Nick that he would bring them to Canada, their new home.

He chose to come to the Lac Bellevue district because an old acquaintance, Peter Cencora, already was established in the area. He stayed at Cencora's and worked at various jobs, saving

enough money to enable him to buy a homestead N.E. 28-56-9-4.

After months of hard work, he was able to erect a house and a barn. He now felt he was able to provide for his family.

Due to limited finances, he was only able to bring his wife and youngest son Nick. They arrived from Lubachew, Poland on Christmas Eve in 1933.

Mrs. Slywa and her son Nick were met at the St. Paul train station by her husband and Steve Zuk, a neighbour who had offered to provide transportation by horse and wagon.

The next day a couple of neighbours offered to bring some dishes of Christmas food to help spend the first Christmas in the new land.

Having survived the winter, they now faced the prospect of breaking the land. Michael and Bessie Slywa laboured for many hours clearing the land using only an axe and pick, often finding that their work was in vain because of the large and numerous rocks which made some areas unfarmable.

They then decided to move to Malloy, a district located north of St. Paul, where they continued farming until retirement in 1962. Upon retirement, they moved to St. Paul and purchased a home which was made from the lumber of St. Paul's First Roman Catholic Church. This house still stands and Mrs. Slywa continues to reside there. Mr. Slywa has been residing for the past 2 years in Parkland Nursing Home in St. Paul. Their son Nick has married and has four children and is living in Edmonton. The Slywa's first son Michael Jr. died in Poland in June of 1979. He is survived by two children.



Mr. and Mrs. Michael Slywa.

WILLIAM CHARLES SMITH

submitted by Agnes Marsh

William Charles Smith was born Nov. 29, 1873 in Sheffield England, son of Thomas and Catherine Smith.

He joined the Cape Mounted Riflemen in 1899 and served in the Boer War in South Africa from 1899 to 1902.

In late 1902, William arrived in Canada and joined the N.W.M. Police and was stationed in Southern Alberta, Fort MacLeod, Cardston and Boudry Creek.

William took a homestead in 1905, in the Foisy district. Here he met Edith Wilks, born July 2, 1890 in Michigan, daughter of Alvina and Rec Wilks, who were neighbors, a few miles away. They were married at Saddle Lake on Nov. 14, 1906. She was a child bride of sixteen, her husband, seventeen years her senior. Because of the large age difference, the marriage was dominated by William. Edith led a happy life though, caring for me, their daughter Agnes, born on Oct. 26, 1907 at the homestead. I was their only child. Edith also tended a large garden, and raised a variety of barn yard fowl.

Shortly after coming to the Foisy district, William was sworn in as the Justice of the Peace. He

served the community for many years, at times holding court in his home. Many times he was required to travel to St. Paul as there was no judge in town.

The Big Fish Lake Toll Office was located in William Smith's home. This was the only telephone in the district.

My Dad drove oxen, and used them to work the land. I remember we ordered an Edison gramophone by mail. When it arrived at the Lafond



W.C. Smith (grandpa) on his way to Edmonton from Foisy (1905).

THE JOURNAL, ST. PAUL, ALBERTA



WILLIE ON THE FARM, FOISY CIRCA 1905

Mr. W. C. Smith, better known as Willie in those far off days, plows the land in 1905 with a pair of oxen. This is typical of what the pioneers of the district went through and how they wrestled a living from the virgin land to develop the prosperity enjoyed today. Mrs. A. Marsh supplied the picture.



W.C. Smith and only child Agnes — 1913.



Mrs. William Smith and daughter Agnes at the age of 4. Approx. 1911.

post office, my Dad hooked up one oxen and a horse on the buckboard. I went along with him to pick up the parcel. Many happy hours were spent listening to records. My mother loved music.

Our home was always open to everyone. Vegreville being the nearest railroad, our place was the halfway stop. Many people travelled from the North and would arrive at all hours. They would spend the night at our place and continue on in the morning. They would stop again on the return trip. Over the years, many friends and acquaintances were made.

In the early forties, Dad's health began to fail. In 1946, the farm was sold to Silver Chrapko. Mom and Dad moved to St. Paul. Dad passed away, Dec. 2, 1950 in the St. Paul Hospital, at the age of 77 years. Mom passed away, Oct. 10, 1964, at the age of 74 years.

THE SNAYCHUKS

*submitted by Paul Snaychuk
Assistance Mrs. Chudyk*

Mr. and Mrs. Snaychuk migrated to Canada in 1925 from the Ukraine. Times were very hard but like everyone else, they survived. They had a family

of 5, Fred, Rose, Peter, Paul and Walter, who all attended Lafond School and the R.C. Church in Lafond. French was taken in each grade, in those days, which proved beneficial in the commercial world and always will be. We have nothing but friends in the entire community.

Mr. Fred Snaychuk Sr. passed away in 1947. Mom remarried Mr. John Chudyk in 1949 who, as well, passed away Dec. 1980.



The Snaychuk Family in 1928, L-R: Father, Fred Sr., Fred, Rose, Peter and Paul (twins) and mother. Walter belongs to this family but only arrived in 1941.

A special thanks to the late Father Mailloux and all residents of Lafond for the success we had in life. The very best to all forever. These are the five children:

Fred born Feb. 25, 1930 married Darlene Tucker from U.S.A. They live in Prince George, B.C. They have 2 boys, Michael, Bruce. Fred is semi-retired, teaching youngsters who've got themselves into trouble with the law.

Rose born May 8, 1932 married W.J. Musical from Edmonton where they are still living. Rose is working for an architectural firm.

Peter born June 1, 1933 married Helen Rawluk from Edmonton. They are now living in Calgary. Peter is Managing Welsh's Saddlery in Calgary.

Paul born June 1, 1933 married Edith Marsh from Foisy. They have three children: Mark, Cindy, Jason. Paul has been in the retail business for 20 years. He is living in St. Paul, contemplating undertaking a new business.

Walter born June 30, 1941 married Carol Linquist. They have 2 daughters: Marie and Tracy. Walter is a Sergeant in the City Police Force of Edmonton; living in Stony Plain.

**SR. LOLITA GALIPEAU C.S.C. KNOWN AS
SR. MARY CHARLES ALBERT**

submitted by Marge Jodoin (nee Marsch)

Sister St. Charles is a native of Springfield, Mass. U.S.A. She entered the congregation of the Sisters of Holy Cross, Feb. 12, 1932 and made her first profession in Feb. 15, 1934.

Sister St. Charles was teaching in Falher, Alta. from Aug. 1934 to 1938. Sister is a graduate of the University of Alberta, where she received her bachelor of Education.

Sister St. Charles was sent to Lafond, Alberta in Aug. 1950 and remained there until 1954. She was principal of the Lafond School which had grades 1 through 9. Sister taught grades 7-8-9. The superintendent at this time was Mr. Rosaire Racette.

Foisy school joined the Lafond school in Sept. 1951. We knew Sister as Sister Charles but she has since taken her given name of Sister Lolita Galipeau.

Our school had been chosen as one of the eleven in the province to experiment on whether the study of Alcoholism and Smoking should be included in the course of studies.



Sister Lolita Galipeau — 1980.

A scrapbook was made of articles, drawing and poems called "Alcohol and Menace", which won an award for our school. The course proved to be very informative and was enjoyed immensely by the students and Sister Charles.

Sister Charles is a very happy, outgoing person and did many things for the school. Her enthusiasm was infectious. She kept up the library and we painted and varnished woodwork, which was great fun.

Sister had compassion for the students in the cold winters in Lafond, so she had chemical toilet installed in the basement, where we older students were sent to supervise.

Another innovative idea by Sister Charles was the introduction of the "Soup Room." At lunchtime the older students would prepare a huge pot of

hardy soup for every one and this proved to be alot of fun, besides providing a nutritious lunch for the students.

One of the most memorable classes, was our typing room, where about a dozen of us would sit with paper bags over our heads, and couldn't really get serious.

Sister St. Charles spent twenty-three years in Alberta, teaching at mostly Junior and Senior High School levels.



In 1978 when Sister Charles came to Edmonton to visit.

Many of Sister's former students from Lafond, still keep in touch with her, and have valued her friendship over the years. Her Lafond students were very fond of her, and as she said to me in one of her letters, and I quote "I really loved all of you in Lafond. I have fond memories of those years."

Sister Charles is a wonderful person and she had a great deal of influence over my life. Her kindness and understanding and great sense of humour made me realize how much she cared about people. Sister Charles not only was my teacher, and a very dear friend, she is also my godmother.

Sister St. Charles returned to her native land in 1959 because of illness. She re-assumed responsibility of principalship in North Grosvenordale, Conn. from 1962-1973.

From 1973 to 1977 she was principal in Adams, Mass.

At the present time, she is superior of St. Joseph Convent in Nashua, New Hampshire, where she is still actively involved in almost every dimension of parish life. She continues to give of herself, her services and dedication to all people, the children, the elderly parishioners and persists in her commitment to God's Family.

EDWARD SYDORA FAMILY

by Valerie Sydora

Edward was born to Harry and Stella Sydora on July 4th, 1945. They lived 3½ miles south of Musidora, Alberta. He attended school in Two Hills until 10 years of age and then moved with his parents to Edmonton where he continued school there. His first interests in the working world were to work in garages. He has 6 brothers and 3 sisters.



Cindy and Ricky while taking Ukrainian Dancing at St. Paul.

Valerie was born to Mike and Mary Jacura on June 2, 1950 to become the 4th daughter, and ten years later came the only brother. Their farm was located 2 miles west and $\frac{1}{4}$ mile north of Foisy. Valerie attended school in Two Hills. In 1965, Ed and Valerie met at a wedding in Two Hills. Ed was working in Edmonton at Royalite Gardens and in the same fall, Valerie went to work in Edmonton at the Alberta Hospital. They were married in Two Hills Alberta on Aug. 19, 1967. They rented homes in Edmonton for one year then decided to move to St. Paul. Ed continued on in mechanics and worked for Zarowny Motors, Smyl Motors and managed a shop, instructing in mechanics at Saddle Lake for $2\frac{1}{2}$ years. They rented a house from Mr. and Mrs. Dudok and at the time were blessed with their first daughter, Cindy Lynn. Things seemed a bit rough, so they moved to mom and dad Jacura's for one year, then back to town for a few months renting a home from Mr. and Mrs. John Zaleski. Their next move was to the St. Brides district to rent a farm house from Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Tkachyk, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile east of St. Brides. They spent 4 years there where they were blessed with three more children, Ricky Martin, Tracy Cristie, and Cathy Rachel. In 1974, when Cathy was 1 month old, they moved $\frac{1}{2}$ mile south of St. Brides to the home of Mrs. Marie



Ed and his dad, Harry Sydora took first place in "Farm and Ranch Class" in St. Paul Agricultural Parade in 1976.

Chornohus and the following spring got a chance to purchase the home with $\frac{1}{2}$ section of land. By this time, Ed had been apprenticing in mechanics and received his mechanics license in 1975. He then had his full time job in mechanics, plus farming 2 quarters of land. They have been raising all sorts of animals including horses, cows, pigs, chickens, ducks, geese, rabbits, goats, dogs, cats and even an oxen. Ed's Dad brought out the oxen and Ed kept it for several years, entering it in parades as it was trained to pull a cart. Then it got older and too stubborn to handle, so it was sold. During the next five years, a lot of time and money was spent into renovating the buildings and draining the slough that occupied approx. 80 acres of land. In the spring of 1980, they decided to build a mechanics shop of their own on their land. The building is almost completed and they hope to have it in operation in spring of 1981. Valerie took accounting by correspondence and so it will be a joint effort with Ed managing the shop and Valerie the books. The children are all attending school in St. Paul. Ed's parents are retired in Edmonton and Valerie's parents are living in St. Paul.

WM. AND CHRISTINE SYDORCHUK AND FAMILY

by Christine Sydorchuk

I came to Canada with my parents in May or June of 1911. I was six months and don't remember anything about the old country. We stayed in Calgary for a few years, then later moved to Lake Eliza with Dad, Dan; Mother, Jennie; brother, Louis; sister, Mary; myself (Christine); and a sister, Annie, who was born in Calgary. Our grandparents and uncles, John and Bill, also arrived to the district at the same time we did.

The land was very bad with many rocks. The children would pick them every spring and there



Bill and Christine Sydorchuk.

was no end to it. Later dad purchased some cows and by selling cream, a meager living was made.

My husband, Bill, and his parents were in the same position. they also lived in Lake Eliza. That's where we met, going to the Hall. We were married on the 10th of February, 1928. We rented my Uncle Bill's farm that same year and in the fall moved to Edmonton. In the summer of 1929, Bill's parents moved to Edmonton and his mother lived with us while his dad went to Peace River and worked for farmers in the Grimshaw and Berwyn area. The soil was very good there, and the farmers were well off. Their farming methods were the same there as was the case in Lake Eliza. Many people filed for homesteads there, but a lot of them left after one year as they were young boys and could not make a living off the land or didn't like the area.

In 1931, many people in that area were on relief. They used to give \$1. a person per month, but you had to work that out on the road. There was nothing for nothing.

Flour would cost \$6. a bag when we arrived in Peace River. We had a good team of horses and had to trade them for three head of cattle so that we could have milk for the children. We raised some chickens from sets and planted a large garden and that gave us our food.

My husband raised and trained some dogs, built a toboggan, and used to go trapping some sixty miles from home. He would return home every weekend. I looked after the family and livestock and also trapped around home so we didn't have to be on relief. We would go to town with our dog team.



The Bill Sydorchuk Daughters. L-R: Helen, Alice, Floreen.

We had four children; three daughters and one son. Our oldest daughter Alice Caine, lives in Edmonton. They own the Van Winkle Hotel on Calgary Trail. Son Albert, lives in Calgary and has an office job working for an oil company. His two daughters are now finished school and have entered the work force. Our next daughter, Helen Shatosky, is working in Calgary and her husband Clarke is working for G.S.I. They have four daughters, one son, and one grandson. Our third daughter Floreen MacLoad, is a nurse, and lives in Coleman. She has worked at the hospital there for 23 years. We have 15 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.

Because of my poor health, we sold our farms in 1980 and moved to Edmonton where I could get better medical care. Living here, we are also closer to our family.

A.J. TALBOURDET AND FAMILY AT MANY LAKES

by Mary B. Mark

Alban Joseph Talbourdet was born October 7th, 1885 in St. Alban, France. He came to Canada in 1904 and worked in and around Calgary.

In 1914, he enlisted in the 31st Battalion Calgary Regiment and served for four years with distinction in the battlefields of France in the First World War, moving up to the rank of lieutenant.

In 1918 before returning to Alberta he married Yvonne Carou. They were some of the first settlers in the Many Lakes area and homesteaded the S.E. 8 and the N.E. 5-57-9-W4th. Mr. Talbourdet favoured sheep ranching in these rugged hills and stayed



Mr. and Mrs. A.J. Talbourdet wedding picture — 1918, Paris, France.

with sheep during the 35 years they lived in the country.

Their first years were saddened by the loss of their infant son, but later they brightened their home with Laurent Richard Talbourdet who attended Many Lakes School and also a teenage nephew, Guy Talbourdet who is presently living in St. Paul. Laurent, his wife and children live in British Columbia (last known).

Mr. Talbourdet was an unforgettable figure with his moustache and neatly clipped beard. He always kept his military stance although he suffered a great deal of pain with his arthritic hip and was forced to walk with a cane. He never complained and masked his true feelings with a smile and twinkling eyes.



Mr. and Mrs. Laurent Talbourdet — 1957.



Yvonne Talbourdet, Unknown, Alban J. Talbourdet, grandson, at Sunnyside Manor, St. Paul, 1958.

Mr. Talbourdet was a trustee of Many Lakes School for many years and took a great deal of pride in its proper operation. One Summer when school was in progress at Many Lakes, he made a picnic for the Stauffers, all the parents and school children down by 'Talbourdet's Lake' where we all went swimming and had a wonderful time.

Their house was built on a steep hill beside the lake and he had a system whereby he could send a pail down along a wire into the lake and then wind it up full of water. His sheep corrals and barnyard were well organized and neat, and many of us will remember him speeding along the road to St. Paul with his snappy team and buggy.

At retirement age Mr. and Mrs. Talbourdet moved to St. Paul where they lived in a small cottage, raised a garden inspite of infirmities and welcomed old friends. They later lived for two and a half years in Sunnyside Manor in St. Paul before moving to Blunt's Nursing Home due to his confinement in a wheelchair.



A Sunday Visit from the Talbourdets March 15, 1941. L-R: Maude, Agnes, Labine, Laurent Talbourdet, Mrs. Hauzenberger, Mary holding nephew, Michael, Freda, Mr. Talbourdet and his wife, Yvonne.

A highlight of their life was their 50th Wedding Anniversary Dec. 18, 1968, celebrated at the Home with a Mass sung by Rev. Fr. Simard, and a reception attended by family and friends and members of the St. Paul Branch of the Canadian Legion. Mr. Talbourdet was the charter president of the Branch and had remained active and supportive all through the years.

A.J. Talbourdet died April 22nd, 1969 at 84 years of age. His wife, Yvonne, passed away three years later. To know him well was to know a kind-hearted and deeply sensitive person. We visited and corresponded over the years. I share now with you two messages containing his philosophy of faith and love, sent in a letter to my daughter at the time of her marriage:

"A bell is not a bell until you ring it,
A song is not a song until you sing it,
Love was not put in your heart to stay,
Love is not love 'til you give it away."
And from 'Les Miserables':

"Woe alas to those who love only in shapes and appearances, for age and death will deprive them of all this; try to love souls and you will meet them again."

'Au revoir, A.J. Talbourdet'

— Mary B. Mark.

GEORGE TASCHUK

by *Pauline Lakusta*

George Taschuk married Annie Tymko in 1928.



George and Annie Taschuk — 1928.

They lived in Beavallon 3 years with George's mother. Then they moved to Lac La Biche. From Lac La Biche they moved to Lac Bellevue, then to St. Paul and Edmonton.

George used to have gatherings in the long winter months. The women knitted and crocheted, and George read to them to all hours if the book was interesting. George and Annie took active parts in choirs and plays at Lac Bellevue Hall. They had 3 sons Joe, David and Nester.

MR. HARRY TASCHUK AND FAMILY

by *Wally Taschuk*

Harry, at the age of 5, arrived in Canada from the Ukraine in March of 1929 with his Mother and sister, Jean, to join his father, Tom, who had been in this country three years prior.

His childhood was occupied with helping out on the farm and going to school, first Beela and later Lac Bellevue. Upon completion of school he went to work with his Uncle Metro Hryhirschuk brushing and breaking land for area farmers during the summer and working on Metro's sawmill in the winter. After a few years of this hard work, he decided to go onto greener pastures and moved to Edmonton to learn the trade of a welder. His first learning experience took place at Medical Welding and McKenzie Airfield in Edmonton; however, not being one to stay away from home for very long, Harry soon moved back to St. Paul and started work with the St. Paul Foundry and later Oscar Missal at his Blacksmith and Welding Shop.

At the age of 23, Harry took up employment at St. Paul Sales & Service. About a year later the "love bug" got the best of Harry as he met a young lady from St. Lina by the name of Rose Svanda. Rose and Harry were married in August of the same year.

Now with a young wife to support, Harry had to settle back down to work at Sales & Service and he did, as he set up the first "autobody shop" north of Edmonton. Then in 1953 he took some time off to go to Flint, Michigan, U.S.A. to learn the latest developments in autobody work. After a very short time, he was back in St. Paul and between his own ingenuity and what he had learned at Flint, he was about to undertake one of his biggest projects ever — the building of a hearse for the newly started Park Dale Funeral Home.

Being an ambitious young man he was kept quite well occupied for several years to follow. In his spare time, he was busy learning the art of stone masonry, carpentry and helping his father out on the farm. At the same time Harry was building up his reputation in the fields of autobody, welding, and farm machinery repair at Sales & Service.

In the late 1950's Harry started to seriously put down his roots as he acquired two children of his choice — Walter Allen in 1958 and Deborah Marie in



Rose and Harry Taschuk getting ready for son, Wally's wedding — 1980.

1960. With a family in mind he also started to build a new house in 1958; however, by doing most of the work himself, it took him a few years to complete. In 1960 with his parents retiring from the farm, an additional job confronted Harry, that of farming the homestead in Lac Bellevue. This was a part time job and consisted of only grain farming for he was still working at Sales & Service where he had now also taken up the trade of radiator repair. The farming operation continued with his son, Wally, and father, Tom, helping out occasionally until 1969 when the land was sold to the Provincial Government for part of the expanding grazing reserve.

There comes a time for everything and after designing and building the present day Sales & Service, Harry left the employ of Alex Tannas and went to Vermilion College where he took an upgrading course which was eventually supposed to take him to the St. Paul Regional High School as a Welding Instructor. However, you can't teach an old dog new tricks and Harry decided that after being out of school for 25 years it was just too much, so he changed his course and went back to work in the garage business — this time at Smyl Motors. By this time Harry's abilities in welding, autobody and radiator repair had become well known and thus he was approached by Vic Muller of St. Paul Chrysler to help develop his fledgling company. Harry started working for St. Paul Chrysler, developing it, and in a couple of years he was instrumental in starting a new industry for St. Paul — Vic's Truck Box Supply.

A serious accident at work put Harry out of commission for some months, after which time he started working for Zarowny Motors where he is presently employed. Harry's expertise in his many fields of endeavour has given him many things to be proud of. In August of 1978, he had the honour, watching along with thousands of others, Queen Elizabeth II unveil a rock cairn commemorating the official opening of Heritage Homes. Harry was responsible for constructing the rock cairn.

Harry now spends his leisure time either with his family which now includes a daughter-in-law, previously Patricia Skoberg of St. Albert, or turning out beautiful pieces of woodwork from his garage.

Harry and Rose and their family all reside in St. Paul, Alberta.

TOM TASCHUK FAMILY

by Evelyn Kowtun

My Grandfather Tom Taschuk was born on March 10, 1894 in the village of Chernivsti, Ukraine. Grandmother Anna Taschuk (nee Popowich) was also born in Chernivsti on January 9, 1898. A neighborhood romance developed and they were married in their home village in June of 1921. Two children were born of this union: Jean and Harry.

In August of 1926, Tom left Europe to join his father who had come to Canada in 1910. Left behind was his young wife and family. Tom sailed from Europe to Montreal, then travelled by train to Edmonton and came directly to the Lac Bellevue District. Once here, he worked along with his father and brother Harry carving a notch in the wilderness.

Three years later in June of 1929, Anna followed with the children — Jean 6 yrs. and Harry 4. Baba Taschuk has many humorous tales of the long sea voyage — despite the fact she was very sea sick most of the time. One day little Harry was missing. A frantic search of the ship was launched and he was finally located on an upper deck in a fancy bathtub — in water up to his ears.



L-R: Ludwig Gadowski, Jean (Taschuk) Gadowski, Harry Taschuk, Anna Taschuk and Tom Taschuk — Approx. 1942.



June 1929 — Taken the day Anna Taschuk and children Jean and Harry left for Canada. Anna is middle of back row. Harry is youngster in 1st row. Jean is 3rd youngster in 1st row with beads, beside grandmother Mrs. Popowich.

Imagine the sheer courage and determination of women like these — from them we learn of liberation. They came to a strange country with a foreign language to meet a near total stranger — their husband. Left behind were families and friends. Once the family was again united Tom and Anna purchased a quarter section in 1930 from Bill Halina for \$1200. There were no buildings; about 50 acres were cleared. From there the family pursued the task of clearing the land and carving a farm. Eventually Tom and Anna farmed 320 acres, purchasing a quarter from the C.P.R. in 1936 for approximately \$6 per acre.

The Lac Bellevue School was located on a portion of their farmstead. In or about 1932-33 Tom and Anna boarded their first teacher from the school — Mrs. Edith Ospaldeston. This was the start of a long time family tradition for the family — up to the last teacher at Lac Bellevue — the late Steve Petruk. Some teachers that come to mind are: Eli Taschuk, Nick Samoil, Katherine Shapka, Mildred Demchuk and Walter Leskiw.

Tom was a hunter of sorts in those early days with the wild game supplementing the family diet. Anna and the children were avid berry and

mushroom pickers and spare money came from the digging, drying and selling of senecca roots. Jean tells stories of weeks of senecca digging in order to save enough money for a pair of running shoes.

In 1960 Tom and Anna moved to St. Paul and farmed their land as commuters. Their dark green 1951 Chev truck was a familiar sight in the district. 1969 saw the sale of their land to the Department of Lands & Forests for inclusion into the St. Paul Provincial Grazing Reserve. It was a difficult retirement period for Tom and Anna — seeing their lifetime labours bulldozed and burned in the name of “progress”. Gone were the familiar blueberry patches and the little path to “Wannechko’s” their nearest neighbours.

In 1971, Tom and Anna celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary. 1980 was a very special year for the Taschuk’s. In March, Anna’s sister Olga and her husband Metro, along with two of Anna’s cousins all from Chernivsti visited Canada. This was their first meeting in over 50 years.

Both the Taschuk children have remained in the local area — Jean married Ludwig Gadowski in 1941 and resides in the Lac Bellevue area. Harry married Rose Swanda (a gal from the St. Lina area) and they



Tom and Anna Taschuk — Summer of 1980.

reside in St. Paul. Baba and Gido Taschuk have 4 grandchildren — Evelyn and Dwain Gadowski and Wally and Debbie Taschuk.

On February 4, 1981 Gido Taschuk passed away in the St. Paul Hospital after a brief illness.

Anna maintains her own home in St. Paul. She spends many hours producing lovely handicrafts — knitting and embroidering.

It is with much pride that we pay tribute to “Taschuks”; it’s through the determined, courageous efforts of pioneers like them that we enjoy the comforts of today. “They are our legacy”.

FRANK TATOSKY — THE BROTHER OF HENRY TATOSKY

by the Tymofichuk family

Frank Tatosky was born in Green Bay, Wisconsin, 1881. When he got older, he was very interested in sports and was one of the first football players in Green Bay. At the age of seven, he saw his first circus and from that time his love for the circus and clowning grew with each passing year. Being active in sports, he played football for Green Bay for eight years before the Packers were organized. He left

Green Bay in 1912 with an acrobatic trio and played vaudeville and then circus. He met Emma Blaha while playing at the Thalia Theatre in Chicago and were married after the first world war, which was in 1918. They then left for Canada.

They spent many enjoyable years in Lake Eliza. They built up their homestead (S.E. 32-55-8-W4) and had two sons, Robert and Richard. While in Alberta, he still did not stop show business. Both he and Emma put on several dramatic plays. After the war, when he had settled down with Emma in Alberta, he built and operated 4-c-t, the most northern amateur station in Canada. There was another station about 16 miles away which was 4-A-N.

While he was living in Lake Eliza, there was a terrible flu epidemic in 1919. Many people were very ill and many died. He volunteered to ride from farm to farm and see how everyone was doing. He would find someone that was very sick, and warm the house up and try and help them as much as he could.



Emma and Frank Tatosky — 1970.

When his two sons were old enough to attend school, Frank and Emma decided that they would get better schooling back in the United States. So they left Lake Eliza, Alberta and headed back to Chicago.

Frank kept on with his clowning and became the producing clown with the Ringling Bros. & Barnum & Bailey Circus. His stage name was Tad Tosky. He produced over 30 original gags, a record that will always be held.

Frank retired from the circus in 1956, after an elephant happened to step on his legs. He took up painting and writing to keep him busy. He was crippled for life, and Multiple Sclerosis set in. He passed away in 1978 and his wife Emma, died in 1980.

GLADYS FLORENCE TATOSKY

by the Tymofichuk family

Gladys Florence Tatosky was born on February 26, 1946, the youngest daughter of Rose (nee Tymofichuk) and Joe Tatosky. She was born in Lake Eliza on the old homestead of her grandparents. She moved along with her parents in 1948 to Websters Corners. She completed grade 9 in school. She



Mike Tymofichuk and his nieces and nephews in front of the old house on the home place. The picket fence was made out of poplar pegs that were split in half. Back row: Gladys Tatosky, Mike Tymofichuk, Gloria Paliwoda. Front row: Irene, Raymond, and Lawrence Tatosky — 1952.

was married in October 1961, to William Scott of Maple Ridge. On March 29, 1962, her first daughter was born, Laura Lynn. Two years later a son was born, William Kelley, on July 19, 1964. The marriage only lasted 4 years and she got a divorce, meeting up with Gerald Kienas.

Gerald Julius Kienas was born on December 15, 1942. The place of his birth was Red Lake, Ontario. Gerry and Gladys were married on November 27th, 1970, and in 1972 another daughter came along, Tamara Lee. She was born on May 25, 1972.

A move was made to Kelowna, B.C. where they lived as Gerry worked as a carpenter, until their move to Parksville in 1979. The Kienas are presently residing in Parksville, B.C. where Gerry works as a superintendent for a construction company. Their oldest daughter, Laura is living in Maple Ridge, B.C.

HENRY TATOSKY

by the Tymofichuk family

Joseph Henry Tatosky was born in 1891 at Green Bay, Wisconsin. He came from a family of 5, one sister Mary, and 3 brothers, Charlie, Egnas and Frank. They had attended school there. As the years went by, Mr. Henry Tatosky ventured to Montana where he herded sheep for quite sometime.



Henry Tatosky and son Joseph (Joe) about 1924.

Then, he left for Salt Lake City, Utah. There he met a girl, Carrie, and married her. But the marriage did not last and shortly after, they were divorced. Soon after that, Henry decided to come to Canada. He made it to Edmonton, Alberta and got a job in a cigar factory. He worked there for a few years and bought himself a big row boat and paddled it down the North Saskatchewan River to Lake Eliza. There he started homesteading. He built a log cabin, mud plastered it, and the roof was covered with sod. He bought oxen and a plow for clearing and cultivating the land. This homestead, N.W. 31-55-8-W4 consisted of quarter section of land which was partly level and partly rolling hills. The soil was black sand and productive. He was farming in spring to fall and trapping in the winter. He trapped for muskrats, bears, weasels, coyotes and rabbits. There were no settlers in this area at that time (1905), with the exception of a few Indians. There were no small towns and no railroads. The closest town was Mannville, which was about 60 to 70 miles from Lake Eliza. He used the oxen for farming and transporting farm produce and livestock to Mannville. The trip to Mannville usually took three to four days travelling to town or about a week, return.

As time went on, he bought himself a few pigs and cows. Whenever they were ready for marketing, the pigs were loaded in the oxen wagon and set off towards Mannville. The trails were rough and would often upset the load. He would then try to get them to the nearest farmer, feed them and reload and usually spend the night to carry on the following day.



(Vera) Veronika Tatosky — Oct. 20, 1928.

When the oxen were pestered by the flies while ploughing they would run into the lake with plough and all and there they would wallow. It was not easy to get them out, so he finally got fed up and decided to buy some horses.

One day Henry's sister from Chicago came to visit him. She came with a lady who emigrated from Czechoslovakia. Her name was Veronika Skrek, born in 1887. She was introduced to Henry, they fell in love and got married in 1913. In 1914, they had a son, Joseph and the midwife was Mrs. Frank Krankowski. As time went by, Henry bought himself a Mogol tractor and a flatdeck truck to clear land faster and easier. As his son Joe was growing up, he was able to help with the chores and farmwork such as milking cows, feeding pigs and setting traps for gophers. The gophers were trapped because they were pests and destroying the grain and gardens.

By this time, Henley School was built and there were quite a few settlers and neighbours. For Joe to be able to attend school, he was sent to Mr. Poloway, as it was closer to the school for him to live there. During the week he would stay there and go to school and then come home on the weekends. He attended Henley School until Lake Eliza School was built and then transferred to Lake Eliza and was home everyday. By then, he got to know most of the children in the neighbourhood. Being the only child, and with nobody to play with at home, he often wandered off in the neighbourhood and played with other children. One Sunday, some of his friends came to visit with him, and being a little better off than the rest of the kids, they all loved coming to Joe's house. Joe's father used to clear stumps using sticks of dynamite and gunpowder and he would often watch his father do this. Well,

this particular Sunday, they decided to go far from the farm, because Joe had something to show his friends. When they reached the lake Joe took a stick of dynamite and was ready to set up to blow a stump. He told the boys to move far and fast just before he was ready to do it. When this was done a loud blast was heard. His dad knew who had done it as soon as he heard the noise. He was so worried in case something happened that he got in his car quickly to check. By the time he got there, all the boys had scattered and ran home.

In the early 1920's Vera's brother (who was Joe's uncle), Frank Skrek came for a visit. He was from Czechoslovakia and he stayed with them for a month before venturing back to the old country, his home.

Henry's son Art, from his first wife, came to visit him in the early twenty's but did not stay there for long. He went back to Salt Lake City, Utah and then to California, where his line of work was. He was an architect, designing boats for the U.S. Army. He was married there and resided with his wife and only son.

Joe never did like school and was always mischievous and in trouble. It seemed that the only things that he liked to do was work with machines, taking them apart and putting them back together again, and riding horseback. Many times, he would be galloping as fast as the horse could go and he would stand up on top of the horses back. He just couldn't settle down. Henry figured that the only way to settle him down was to send him to another school, away from all his friends. He was then sent to Lafond to continue his schooling.

With Joseph gone to school and only the two of them living in their home for quite some time now, Vera used to get up in the morning, start a fire in the stove and go milk the cows while Henry was still sleeping. One morning tragedy struck. A spark, from the stove, must have jumped into a nearby wood box and ignited the wood. Henry was awakened by smelling smoke, but by that time the fire was too great and destroyed almost everything.

When Joe returned from school he was more uncontrollable than ever. He absolutely did not like



Tatosky Family — L-R: Vera Tatosky, Henry, Rose, Lawrence, Joe Tatosky. Front: Irene — 1946.

school and no one was going to make him go. At the early age of 16, Joe left home.

Before he left home, Henry Tatosky had started a mink ranch on his farm. While he was doing the farming, Vera had to look after and feed the mink. It was difficult to get fresh fish and horsemeat to feed the mink, so Vera trapped gophers and caught ducks to grind up and blend with the other feed. Eggs were also used to mix with the feed for the mink.

Joe was gone from Lake Eliza for eight years without his parents knowing where he was. Joe had taken a neighbour's row boat to cross the North Saskatchewan River and then walked from farmer to farmer, working at each to survive. Later he travelled to the interior of B.C. working on big cattle ranches and farms.

Later in August 1938, Joe returned to Lake Eliza. He was 23 years old. He and Rose Tymofichuk began seeing each other and were married on February 11, 1939.

The day of the wedding was a cold 60 degree below zero. After the wedding, the two of them (Joe and Rose Tatosky) were supposed to go back and live with Henry and Vera Tatosky but could not agree to each others standards.

Henry Tatosky got tired of Lake Eliza and sold his farm to Mr. John Paliwoda and moved to Lac La Biche. He gave Joe and Rose (his son and daughter-in-law) all the horses and machinery. Joe and Rose rented Frank Tatosky's farm for a while.

Henry and Vera purchased a two-acre piece of land in Lac La Biche and set up the mink ranch that they had started in Lake Eliza. The house in which they lived was a small two room shack with a wood stove for heating and cooking. He made a small power plant by hand in order to have electricity and a large water tank where water was piped from the lake instead of digging for a well. There was a small garage built on the property for the car and for storage. A freezer was made to be able to store meat

and other perishable foods. It too, was run by electricity.

He would fish for fresh mink feed, everyday, with a large fishing boat that he purchased. The summer usually brought plenty of fish for the mink and for themselves. Winter usually meant ice fishing which sometimes brought good results. Even though fishing was generally good, it was sometimes 40 to 60 below zero, and a little hard trying to fish while it was so cold.

Lac La Biche was their home for approximately 3 years, when in 1948 they moved to Faust with Joe and Rose and their 4 children. They lived there for one year with the mink ranch. All but ten mink (which were used for breeders) were pelted off and another move was made to Pitt Meadows, B.C. Two 5-acre pieces of land were purchased to continue the mink ranching, trying to build up a bigger herd of mink. That year was 1949.

Additions were made to an old house that had already been on the property and here he had to buy his feed and freeze it for use in the winter. He purchased it from fellow mink ranchers who sold him horsemeat, scrap fish, cereal, eggs, cottage cheese and wheat germ oil. He attended to mostly breeding and pelting of the mink, while his wife helped with feeding, watering and cleaning of the mink cages. The mink were placed each in an individual cage.

As the mink business began picking up in Pitt Meadows, Henry began feeling more confident about his new home. He went to visit some friends in the hospital and as he was leaving for home, he was in a car accident. All his ribs except for one were broken, his pelvis was broken; and he had an enlarged heart from birth. He was rushed to the hospital by an ambulance and shortly after he caught pneumonia and in 1958 he died.

Vera lived by herself after her husband's death, continued on with the mink farm with her son, Joe. Later in 1958 Joe and Rose moved to Websters



Mink ranching at Lac La Biche, Alberta.

Corners and Vera went with them. She lived there with them until 1973, when care was no longer possible without extended care. She was then placed in the Maple Ridge Extended Care Unit until she passed away from an attack of influenza and natural causes, in 1976 (March).

IRENE TATOSKY

by Irene Lange

Irene Tatosky was born on January 14, 1940 and is the oldest daughter of Joe and Rose (nee Tymofichuk) Tatosky. She was born in Lake Eliza, Alberta. She lived with her parents in Lake Eliza and moved with them to Lac La Biche in 1946, where Joe and Rose followed Henry and Vera Tatosky to help with the mink ranching. She lived there for six months until Peter and Helen Tymofichuk (Grandfather and Grandmother) came to visit. She was very close to them and when they left Lac La Biche to go back to Lake Eliza, it was decided that Irene would return with them.

She was first introduced to school by her uncles Joe and Bill Tymofichuk who were still in school themselves. (Gr. 8 and Gr. 5). She attended Henley School at this time and it was a two room school with one room handling grades one to five and the other room grades six to nine. One day as she was walking to school, she was run over by a horse that a young boy could not control. She was lucky to escape with only a few bruises.

Her life with Peter and Helen Tymofichuk was very happy and holds many treasured memories. She was considered their little girl, and remembers grandma's feather bed, berry-picking and threshing time. Many sacks of potatoes were harvested and

would last until the next year's crop. The geese were butchered and all feathers were saved to make beautiful down quilts and pillows and in order to curl hair, rags were used, because there were no such thing as curlers.

One and half years later the Tatosky family decided to move to Faust, Alberta as there were hopes they might do better in the mink business as well as better fishing for mink food. Her schooling continued in Faust for one year, when a move was made to Pitt Meadows, B.C. and later to Websters Corners. She graduated from Maple Ridge High School in 1958, and in 1961 married Alfred (Alf) Lange. The wedding took place on June 12, 1961, and she worked in the bank after the wedding, until her first daughter, Diane, was born on May 11, 1963. Two years later her second daughter was born, Karen, on August 31, 1965.

It was then that they bought a home in Maple Ridge, B.C. and Alf worked in the sawmill. Their third daughter Gwen was born on December 2, 1968. Twenty-two months later came the fourth daughter, Christine, which was to complete their family. Now that the children are all in school, she decided to go back to work and now works for Cablevision and operates a computer. She and Alf are presently living in Maple Ridge, B.C.

JOE TATOSKY AND FAMILY

by the Tymofichuk family



Irene Tatosky and her brother Lawrence in Lac La Biche with the lake in the background — 1946.



Joseph (Joe) Tatosky — 1918.



Joe, and daughter Irene and Rose Tatosky October — 1942.

Joseph Tatosky and Rose Tymofichuk, daughter of Peter and Helen Tymofichuk were married in 1939 in Lake Eliza, Alberta. February 11, 1939 was a very cold day. The temperature was 60°F below zero and a day that no one will ever forget. They had known each other since childhood in Lake Eliza and it was at the wedding of Ed Hanchoruk and Jean



Rose Joe Tatosky February 11, 1939.

Yuschyshyn that they first noticed each other. They began seeing each other in August of 1938 and were married the following February.

After they were married, Joe and Rose Tatosky went to live with Joe's father, Henry Tatosky, from February until May, where after a disagreement, Rose and Joe left Henry's home and returned to Peter Tymofichuk's farm. They lived there for a year where their first daughter, Irene was born, on January 14, 1940. Rose's midwife was Mrs. P. Rawliuk. Approximately 6 months after Irene was born, they moved to Joe's uncle Frank's farm and rented it for about 3 years, where their oldest son was born, Lawrence, on March 15, 1942. It was then that Rose and Joe bought the old homestead from Peter and Helen Tymofichuk, Rose's mother and father, and farmed the land and worked hard for about 4 years to make every thing up to their standards. Another daughter, Gladys Florence, was born on February 26, 1946. They then moved to Lac La Biche to assist Joe's father, Henry, with his mink farm. Rose's sister Katie and her husband John Trach and family moved along with Rose and Joe to Lac La Biche. That was their home for about 1½ years, when they moved to Faust, along with Henry and Vera Tatosky, where the youngest son of Joe and Rose, Raymond, was born on September 2, 1949.

A year was spent in Faust, and after the youngest son was born, the three families moved to Pitt Meadows, B.C. There, all three families, stayed in a two-room house with no furniture and slept on the floors. A mink ranch was also constructed in Pitt Meadows and was looked after by Joe, Rose and Vera Tatosky, after Henry died in 1956.

1958 another move was made. This time to Websters Corners, only about 10 miles from where



Front: Irene, Lawrence, Gladys and Raymond. Back: Joe and Rose Tatosky on homestead of Peter Tymofichuk.

they lived before. They set up their mink farm and carried on with that for about 6 years and then got rid of it. This has been their home ever since.

Their oldest daughter Irene, was married in June of 1961 to Alfred Lange. They had 4 girls, Diane, Karen, Gwen, and Christine.

Four months later, second daughter, Gladys, married William Scott (October 1961) and had a daughter and a son, Laura Lynn, and William Kelly. She was divorced in 1969-70 and remarried in 1971 to Gerald Kienas. A third daughter was born to them, Tamara Lee.

Lawrence, the oldest son of Joe and Rose, married Molly Hutchins in 1966. They had a set of twins in 1967, a boy and a girl, Lawrence Jr. and Tina Marie. Two years later another daughter, Susan and another set of twins (two girls) two years later, Barbara and Darlene.

The youngest son, Raymond was married on July 8, 1972 to Marilyn Hopper of Maple Ridge. They had a daughter, Shannon Leigh in 1976 and two years later a son, Shane Raymond.

Joe and Rose are presently residing in Websters Corners, Maple Ridge, B.C.

LAWRENCE WALTER TATOSKY

by the Tymofichuk family



Lawrence and Molly (nee Hutchins) Tatosky's Wedding July 8, 1966.



The children of Lawrence and Molly Tatosky. Back row: Twins Lawrence and Tina Marie. Front row: Barbara May (twin), Susan (single) and Darlene Rose (twin).

Lawrence Walter Tatosky, son of Joe and Rose (nee Tymofichuk) Tatosky was born on March 15th, 1943 in Lake Eliza, Alberta. He moved with his parents in 1949 to Pitt Meadows, B.C. and then to Websters Corners in 1958. He went to school at Pitt Meadows and completed grade eight at Maple Ridge High School. He met Molly Hutchins in 1966. Molly was born March 14, 1943 in Mission, B.C. She went to school at Mission where she completed grade 9.

On July 8, 1966 Molly and Lawrence were married. In 1966 November 1st a daughter and son, twins, were born to them, Lawrence Joseph and Tina-Marie Jean. Two years later on December 31, 1968 another daughter Susan Arlene was born. On March 4, 1970 another set of twins were born, two daughters, Barbara May, and Darlene Rose.

Lawrence started working at the Co-op and bought himself a large fishing boat, the Brenda Lee. They are presently residing in Websters Corners, Maple Ridge, B.C. and Lawrence Tatosky is presently working in a mill.

RAYMOND TATOSKY

by the Tymofichuk family

Raymond Tatosky, son of Joe and Rose Tatosky, was born September 2, 1948 in High Prairie, Alberta.

Ray, the youngest of four children, started school in Pitt Meadows and in 1958, with his family, moved to Websters Corners where Ray finished elementary school, then attended Garibaldi High and graduated from Maple Ridge senior high in 1969. It was then that he met Marilyn Hopper. At that time Marilyn was going to school at Maple Ridge. Two years later Marilyn graduated and the two were engaged in 1971 and married July 8, 1972.



Raymond and Marilyn's wedding July 8, 1972 — L-R: Joe Tatosky, Rose Tatosky, Raymond Tatosky, Marilyn (Hopper) Tatosky, Olive Hopper, Lloyd Hopper.

They moved to Kelowna, B.C. and lived there from 1972 until 1978. In 1976, on January 8, a daughter Shanon Leigh was born to them, and two years later a son Shane Raymond on March 14, 1978. Both children were born in Kelowna, B.C. In 1978 the family moved to Abbotsford, B.C. where Raymond started a business which he later sold in 1980. In 1981 they moved to Kamloops, B.C. where they are now residing.

WAYNE AND JOANNE TERNOVOY (NEE ORLECKI)

by Dwayne Ternovoy

I, Dwayne Roy Ternovoy, son of Mike and Jean Ternovoy (nee Logozar), was born May 12, 1953 at the Two Hills Hospital. I attended school at Lafond until grade 9, grades 10 and 11 at Racette School and grade 12 at Regional High School in St. Paul. After graduating from school in 1971, I decided to further my education by attending Nait in Edmonton. I completed my Heavy Duty Technologist first year course, then switched to Sheet Metal, obtaining my Sheet Metal Ticket, Power Actuated Tool Ticket, Red Seal and Certificate of Proficiency by 1976. During my time in school, I purchased a farm (N.E. 22-56-11-4). After completing my education, I worked for Economy Heating for 6 years as an installer. I then worked 2 years at High Standard Sheet Metal as a foreman, estimator, draftsman, and assistant manager.

September 10, 1977, I married Joanne Charleen Orlecki, daughter of Joseph Orlecki and Kathleen (Orlecki) Olfson (nee Dochuk).

Joanne was born on April 13, 1958, at the Two Hills Hospital. She attended school in Two Hills, moving to Edmonton in 1972 and completed her



Dwayne and Joanne Ternovoy. Wedding picture. September 10, 1977.

education there. Joanne worked for 3 years as a bank teller at Scotia Bank in Edmonton. She also danced with the Ukrainian Shumka Dancers for 8 years, performing at places such as Spokane, all over Alberta, Detroit, Hamilton, Winnipeg, Ottawa, and Saskatoon.

We moved to St. Paul in 1979 where I am employed at L. & M. International Equipment Ltd. as a Sales Manager. Joanne is presently teaching Ukrainian Dancing at Elk Point, Myrnam, and Two Hills.

We have formed our own Company, North Bay Development Ltd., which is presently building a resort on our land. The resort, which is located by Lac Sante, is called Still Water Resort.

We are planning to build our first home on our resort to accommodate myself, my lovely wife, and our first born.

MR. AND MRS. ERNEST TERNOVOY

by Gladys (Ewanchuk) Ternovoy

Ernest Ternovoy was born on May 17, 1939. He attended school for six years at Foisy Country School. For five years he walked one mile each way across farms, and one year he rode the Lafond bus. From there he went to Lafond and completed grade twelve. After graduating from Lafond High School, he went to work at the Treasury Branch Bank in Andrew. Ernest worked there for two years and then decided to buy one quarter section of land and went farming in partnership with his father. Then each winter, he went out working on various jobs,



Ernest Ternovoy and Gladys Ewanchuk on their wedding day, Aug. 6, 1966 at the Brosseau Ukrainian Orthodox Church Mamaestic.

but always came back in the spring to farm. Then in 1964, he met Gladys Ewanchuk and courted her until they married in August 6, 1966. We both farmed for four years, then decided to go out working. I worked for the past nine years with the St. Paul and District Co-op Assn. and still presently employed. At the present time Ernest is employed at St. Paul Sales and Service as a car salesman. On March 5, 1967 a baby girl was born, named Joanne, a Centennial baby. Then another addition, eleven years later, a baby boy named Elwood Ernest was born on April 24, 1978.



Joanne Ternovoy and baby brother Elwood, Ernest and Gladys Ternovoy's children.

THE MIKE AND JEAN (LOGOZAR) TERNOVOY FAMILY

by Mike Ternovoy

I, Mike was born on October 12, 1913 on a farm southeast of Bellis. By 1918, although I was not very big, I remember a little of the bad flu. We were all sick except Dad. With his good care and the Lord, we all survived.

At the age of seven, I started school (Irondale). The school was only open during the summer as there were very poor roads and the parents could not afford good winter clothes for their children.

In 1923, my Dad rented one quarter section of land in the Wahstao district, which was about 8 miles southwest of Bellis. We lived there for 3 years and I went to Prosvischenia School along with my brother Alex and two sisters Nida and Rita. This school was open during the summer and winter and we were lucky we lived only one and a half miles from school.

In 1925, my Dad bought one quarter section of C.P.R. land in the Foisy district (N.E. 19-56-11-4). This land was uncultivated, mostly prairie and bush with no fences nor roads but on the north side of this section there was only a cut line and corner pegs indicating each section markings. In 1926, my Dad built a small house and moved us to our new home. We then built a barn for the horses and a few head of cattle. We began fencing the entire farm and I can still recall the many nights when sleep was impossible because of the aches and pains I felt. At this time my brother Bill was 19 years old and I was 13 and we helped our father as much as we could. This did not leave much time nor energy for school however, I did manage to go for a year and a half to Champlain School and this was mostly in the winter.

Clearing the bush was done by hand and pulling the stumps with horses. This work lasted for quite a few years. When I reached the age of seventeen, the hard work really started. In the summertime, we had to do some roadwork for the Municipality as part of our tax repayment. Every farmer had to contribute 3 or 4 days along with four of his horses and a scraper which was called a frezno. One man with four horses hitched to a plow would plow on top of a hill and then four men and 4 horses hitched to 4 freznos would haul the dirt and fill in the low spots on the road. This system lasted into the late thirties, then the Municipality invested into some road building machinery and the old method disappeared.

Threshing was another hard job. Everybody was anxious to get their crops threshed so we had to work 12 to 14 hours a day, with one hour break for dinner and 15 minutes for lunch at 4 o'clock. The worst was in the hungry thirties. I worked with my wagon, hay rack and a team of horses for \$3.00 a day, which barely amounted to 25¢ per hour. We certainly couldn't go on strike or make any wage



Seated: Jean and Mike Ternovoy. Standing: Ernest, Gloria, Dwayne.

demands in those days; everybody had to manage with what they earned.

In 1935, I bought my farm at N.E. 27-56-11-W4, of which 40 acres were cultivated. The only buildings were a straw barn and a one room shack. On October 15, 1936 I married Jean Logozer and together we started our new life in this one room log shack. During the winter, we had to get up 4 or 5 times during the night to keep the fire burning, otherwise it would get so cold inside that by morning even the water would freeze in the pail. In summer it was just the opposite; when it rained we did not know which corner to move the bed to, as the roof was too flat and leaked like a sieve.



Wedding picture of Mike Ternovoy and Jean Logozer — October 15, 1936.

On May 17, 1939 we were blessed with our first baby boy, Ernest. This was quite a chore for Mamma in a one room shack, however, we worked hard and five years later, built a new house which was much more comfortable and on November 2, 1945 we brought into our new home, our daughter, Gloria.

We did not have a car, but I bought a buggy which was nicer to ride than a wagon. I can recall a time when my wife and I and our two children went to visit my parents, 4 miles away with one horse and the buggy. On our way back, we met a car, the horse got scared and jumped into the ditch. The wheel hit a rock and off flew the buggy seat onto the ground. There we were still sitting in our same position with the children between us except we were minus the buggy and horse. No one was hurt and our frightened horse was soon calmed down and finally took us home. Soon afterwards, in 1946, I purchased my first car, a 1930 Chev sedan and no longer worried about runaway horses.

In 1949, I bought my first tractor, a Massey 30, which is still in running order and I keep it for choring around.

Our third child, Dwayne was born on May 12, 1953 which completed our family.

The time flew by, the children grew up and moved on their own, raising their own families. My wife and I are retired and are planning to live on our home place as long as our health permits us.

Our family consists of:

Ernest born May 17, 1939 married Gladys Ewan-chuk on Aug. 6, 1966. They have 2 children: Joanne and Elwood. They live on their farm in the Foisy district and both work in St. Paul.

Gloria born Nov. 2, 1945 married David Pundick on Sept. 4, 1965. They have 2 children: Sherilee and Clinton. They live in Foisy district on an acreage near the lake.

Dwayne born May 12, 1953 married Joanne Orlecki on Sept. 10, 1977. They live in St. Paul.

ARMAND THEROUX

by Therese Theroux

Armand Theroux, 8th child of Emery Theroux and Louisa Fleury was born at home on April 16, 1911.

As a young boy of 10, he was not well, felt weak and listless. The doctors, after a two week to a month stay at various hospitals, all agreed that he had some kind of a heart condition, for which there was no remedy, so he remained at home, resting most of the time. Once he had accompanied his parents to Duvernay. While there, the parents were talking to Mr. Siegfroi Labreque, herbalist, who inquired about the boy's health. On hearing of the heart condition, he told them of a simple remedy. They quickly procured the necessary ingredients and made the prescribed brew. After taking this



A plaque presented to Mrs. Thérèse Theroux by Mr. Rudolphe Côté, Councillor, upon her retirement from teaching. Twenty-six of her 32 teaching years have been in the Lafond Schools, the old and the new. Her Lafond students have been affectionately calling her "Memère" for years.

medicine for a week, Armand was much improved and soon was well again. A Vegreville doctor later gave him a check-up and was very surprised to find no trace of the heart condition.

Armand then resumed classes. As soon as he was 15 years old, the legal age to stop, he remained at home to work on the tractor, the machine he loved so much, repairing it when needed and working with it, many long days from 4:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., hurrying to get all the plowing done. It took much time to prepare 400 acres for seeding besides 200 acres of summer fallow. Besides this it was hauling feed for the cattle and horses, grinding feed for the hogs, cleaning barns and pig pens. Never a dull moment.

I, Therese Belisle, was born in Vegreville on April 6, 1915. My mother was a victim of the dreaded flu and passed away on Feb. 27, 1920. That fall, I went to the Convent in Vegreville, with my sister, Florentine and brother, Frank, who boarded there to attend St. Martin's School, which was just across the road. The first year I did not attend school as I was not yet of school age. The next year I began my education, still quite young. Nonetheless due to wonderful teachers, who had a lot of patience and know how, I moved along so quickly that I was ready to start my High School, Grade 9 then, at the age of twelve years. My high school days were lived under a certain stress. I was expected to behave as the older students.

As Normal School entrance was 18 years and no less, I had to wait two years to attend Camrose Normal School in 1933-34. Again I was blessed with wonderful teachers, who really prepared us to go out to teach in a one room school with usually eight grades and no one to turn for help. The little red

school house, 40 miles from nowhere, really depicted many of the country schools. How we did it, I often wonder! In those days, you were your own janitor. You had to build the fire in the big furnace, haul out ashes, and see to it that water and wood were hauled in each day. Water was hauled from the well, somewhere in the school yard. In winter, you had to make sure to empty the water tank, for everything froze solid overnight! The children's lunches even froze during the day, if left on the floor in the cloak rooms. The floors were so cold that you had to wear heavy socks and mocassins. Teaching was really a challenge, in those days, and your experiences so varied, it would make an interesting book. And the pay! That's something else. \$840.00 a year and you were paid when and if the secretary of the school district collected some taxes or got a government grant. You were lucky to collect enough to pay your board, usually \$15.00 a month and have a few dollars left. At the end of the year, the \$840.00 would not be paid, so the next year, you received a \$5.00 or \$7.00 cheque or whatever from the school district where you had taught the previous year. This came from the government grant which was divided proportionally amongst all teachers to whom the district owed back wages. Times were really hard. I had never seen such poverty, yet people were happy and showed great resourcefulness.

After a few years of teaching, Armand Theroux and I were married on July 6, 1937, in the Vegreville Convent Chapel by Rev. Father Burke.

Our first home was a converted granary, 12' by 16', set across the road from the home of Armand's parents. A Winnipeg couch served as a chesterfield by day, and a bed by night. Everything was very

compact. We were hauled out the first year, and didn't harvest enough to pay for the seed used to put in the crop, nor the gas and oil. As farming wasn't paying, we had a gas pump installed and sold gas for B.A. Oil with Jake Mast in Vegreville as our supplier. We could count on making \$1.00 a day, selling gas. Our needs were few, so the revenue from the gas, covered our living expenses. We had to make sure we collected for every barrel sold. We also took twine to sell on consignment. We worried about a few of these bags, sold on credit, to doubtful customers. In time, all came across with the money, much to our relief. The following year, we added 2 large rooms to our little home.

In the first few years, Armand farmed his father's land, using the machinery for ours also. Slowly we bought our own. In April 1940, Mr. Theroux passed away. By now, the younger boys were able to take over the farming of their mother's land, so we moved to our own farm.

We moved our 3-room house and chicken coop only 1½ miles northward, then as time and money permitted, we built a barn, a garage, some granaries and later a new house. This was a large 4-bedroom house which served us well, as the family had now increased to five, 3 daughters and 2 sons.

While on the farm we experienced two floods. The first was in early April, 1940. We were so close to the river that it was dangerous to stay there with Pierrette and Maurice, too young to know danger and so active, that it was almost impossible to keep an eye on them all the time. We moved a mile and a half away and Armand went down to the flats to do chores. The churning water made big washouts, so that it was really dangerous to travel through that water. When at last, the water finally receded, there was much repair work to be done, in the roads especially.

The second flood occurred in 1951, after we had moved into our new house on our own land. The water surrounded the house coming right up to the



Armand and Therese Theroux's farm home at Bens Lake.

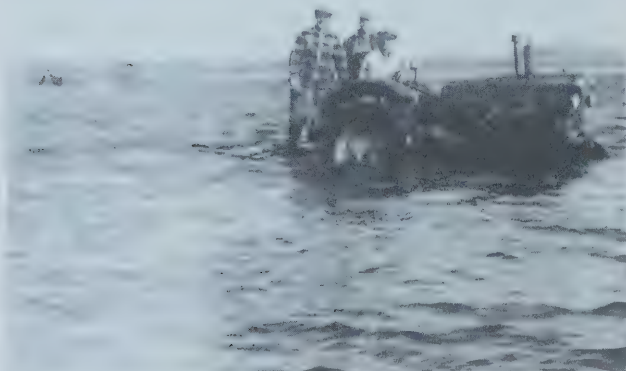
foundation. We felt as though we lived on an island. Again we moved to higher land, so the children could attend school. We had moved at night taking the chickens then also, as it was easier to catch them in the dark. The cattle were moved the next day. Fortunately we had no hogs. Again we were away for approximately two weeks. Spring work was delayed but oh! What good crops we had after the land had received such a good soaking.

In 1950, Armand bought a 49-passenger School Bus, working for the County of Two Hills. He drove for six years, then sold to Mr. Kotyshyn of Two Hills.

The children attended Ben's Lake School until it closed, then St. Martin's in Vegreville for two years, Two Hills for a year and then we moved to Lafond. We rented our farm for several years. When we saw that our boys were not interested in farming, we sold the land to Mr. Adam Shawchuk from Hairy Hill.

Armand bought a truck and did some hauling for a few years. Later he bought an old backhoe, started to work with it. He enjoyed seeing that the backbreaking job of digging ditches by hand was now a thing of the past. He went on to buy a new machine and kept trading for new ones every two years or so. Later, our son Roger Theroux, moved to Lafond and started in the business with his dad. Armand has now retired, sold his machine, yet keeps busy repairing odd things around the house, our cars and/or motorhome. In the summer, he mows the lawn and helps to care for the garden. We also travel quite a bit. We've crossed Canada three times, have gone to the U.S.A. and Mexico, also to the North West Territories as far as Yellowknife.

In Lafond, I taught from 1951 to 1976, when I retired. I began with a Gr. 3 and 4 class and moved up to High School work, which was challenging, interesting and most rewarding. Then after the High School students went to St. Paul, I worked at the Jr. High School level and later at whatever level needed a teacher. Some years I taught only French, some years I taught subjects only in various classes with none of my own, in all a very varied experi-



Scene during the 1948 flood on Armand Theroux's farm. This was taken about 30 feet from the house. The binder and swather are half submerged. On the tractor, seated Armand Theroux; standing, neighbors, L-R: Joe Volk and Ivan Bossé.



Armand and Therese Theroux and family on the occasion of their 40th Wedding Anniversary — Seated L-R: Armand Theroux, Denise (Theroux) Gamroth. Standing: Pierrette (Theroux) Robinson, Maurice Theroux, Mrs. Therese Theroux, Roger Theroux, Yvette (Theroux) Foster.

ence, but almost always very pleasant, due to the pupils' enthusiasm to learn, the parents, the School Boards and the Superintendents' dependable support.

I am now enjoying my retirement finding it very relaxing to work at one's own speed, whenever I feel like it. I am as busy if not busier with many parochial and community projects.

FLORIAN THEROUX

by Armand Theroux

Florian Theroux, the fifth child of Emery Theroux and Louisa Fleury, was born on Sept. 20, 1906, at home, in the flats, west of Ben's Lake, 13 miles south of Two Hills.



Florien Theroux — picnicking at a lake with Joe Pare and family.

He received most of his education in Vegreville at St. Martin's R.C. Separate School, when he was a boarder at the Convent.

At home, there were always a lot of chores to do, as many cattle, horses and hogs were raised. Florian, as a young man, was in charge of the hogs and he cared for them very well.

Somewhere, somehow, he met a young lady who caught his eye, Eva Henley of the Foisy district, and after a bit of time, the outcome was a wedding on August 14, 1928.

A fully equipped farm was for sale, two miles south of Lafond. Florian and his bride took a fancy to it and bought it. They farmed for ten years and then moved to Edmonton, where Florian worked for the Packing Plants for many years.

One day, at work on another job, he had an accident in which his right foot was hurt. This didn't appear serious at the time but as the years went by, this foot bothered him so much that he developed quite a limp. "Pete" as he was called by many of his friends, "le Pit" by the family, must have suffered a great deal from this injury.

He retired in Penticton, living near the beautiful Okanagan Lake where he spent much time, feeding the flocks of white geese that were almost always there. His health was generally good and he was very active until he passed away, victim of a heart attack, on November 20, 1977.

The family consisted of 2 boys and 4 girls:

Adrien born Sept. 17, 1929 was married in 1954 and has a daughter and a son.

Louise born Oct. 22, 1932 married William Thorpe and they have a son and a daughter.

Angele born June 28, 1935 married Reg Badelet and they have a chosen son and a chosen daughter.

Lorraine born Feb. 10, 1937, is married and has two sons.

Hector born May 28, 1939, is married, has 3 children and lives in the Prince George area.

Lorretta, born June 1, 1941, is married and has a son and a daughter.

MAURICE THEROUX AND FAMILY

by Maurice Theroux

I, Maurice A. Theroux, was born on August 20, 1939 in Vegreville. I lived on a farm, about 1½ miles west of Ben's Lake with my parents, Armand and Therese Theroux, an older sister Pierrette, and later a younger brother, Roger and two little sisters, Yvette and Denise, until the age of 12. Then the family moved to Lafond where Mother took on a teaching position. I finished my grade 11 and a year of grade 12 in Lafond School.

At the age of 18, I moved to Fort Saskatchewan, where I drove a school bus for my uncle, and



L-R: Maurice, Ken, Verna, Kevin. Taken in October 1978.

between bus runs helped different farmers harvest their crops.

I also worked as janitor at the Lamoureux School for one year.

At the end of 1958, I went working in B.C. in a lumber camp at Davie Lake. I stayed there for about two years, then returned to the Fort Saskatchewan area. I again drove a school bus, and helped some farmers harvest their crops.

In 1961, I was back in Lafond, hauling cattle and hogs from the Lafond Stockyards for a year.

In 1962, I returned to the Lamoureux-Fort Saskatchewan area, where again, I drove a school bus, and worked as a farm hand.

In the fall of 1963, I started working at the Sheritt-Gordon Plant as an operator and later supervisor in the Rolling Mill and Mint.

In 1976, I decided to take up a trade, at Sheritt. I asked and was accepted as an apprentice, doing my yearly two months of school at NAIT, until in 1980. I successfully completed this course, with my Provincial and Inter-Provincial Ticket as a Millwright.

In 1964, I married a little girl from the Lamoureux district, Verna McIsaac. She was already in the hairdressing profession. We lived in a small house on her father's farm.

In 1966, on July 6, the stork delivered a big baby boy, Ken and in 1969, another boy, Kevin, was added to our family.

In September, 1970, we built our house on 5 acres that we got from Verna's father. Later, we built a 2-car garage and sheds to store garden equipment, bicycles, skidoos, etc.

Verna is still working three days a week in Fort Saskatchewan, as a hairdresser. Her hobbies are pottery, and making dried-flower arrangements.

I, Maurice am a mechanic at Sheritt-Gordon. I still like to work with tractors, cars, and trucks, repairing them for myself and my boys, and often to help the neighbors also.

ROGER AND JEANNETTE (BRAULT) THEROUX AND FAMILY

by Jeannette Theroux

Roger Theroux was born Oct. 2, 1943, in Vegreville, Alberta. He lived with his parents Armand and Therese (Belisle) Theroux in Warwick, Alberta. He received his first year of education at the convent in Vegreville, Alberta. In 1952 he came to Lafond and attended school for six more years and then decided to go to work. He worked mostly in lumber camps in and around Prince George, B.C. He was only fifteen years old then and had to lie about his age to be able to work.



Roger and Jeannette Theroux, Dec. 28, 1963.



Sitting on the floor: Suzanne. Sitting on the chairs: Roger and Jeannette Theroux. Top row: Pierre, Diane, Normand.

Jeannette Theroux (Brault) was born on Aug. 27, 1941 to Albert and Matilda (Pigeau) Brault. I lived in Lafond for three years. My dad was a truck driver who hauled cattle and pigs to Edmonton. He died of sugar diabetes, on Dec. 27, 1944 at the age of 36 years. My mother, sister Jeannine and I moved to St. Paul and we girls went to school there. I completed my grade eleven and had to quit to get a job to help my mother who was at that time chambermaid at the Donald Hotel in St. Paul. My first job was as a telephone operator. In 1958, I went to work as a ward aide at the St. Theresa Hospital in St. Paul. I worked there till 1963.

Roger met me, Jeannette Brault in 1959 and courted me off and on for four years. On Dec. 28, 1963 we were married in Lafond and honeymooned in Prince George B.C. We lived there for a short time, then it was back to Alberta where Roger tried many different jobs. He worked for C.P.R., hotel janitor, breadman, milkman and finally driving trucks in Edmonton for M & P Transport. He was fed up of city life, with four children, so he decided to go into the backhoe business. We moved our house trailer to Lafond, in 1970 and have been there since. We bought the old convent in Lafond in 1972 and lived there for 6 years. This building was about

60 years old and the foundation and roof were not repairable, so we built a new house in 1978 which we are now enjoying.

We have four children:

Suzanne born in 1964, now taking Gr. 11 at St. Paul Regional.

Diane born in 1966, in grade 8 at Lafond School. Pierre, our centennial boy, 1967, is in grade 7 at Lafond School.

Normand born in 1968 is in grade 6 at Lafond School.

They are all living at home.

GERHARD THOBEN FAMILY

by Lawrence Thoben

Gerhard Thoben came to Canada from Germany in 1927. He made his way from Halifax, Nova Scotia to Humbolt, Saskatchewan, where he lived with friends and worked on various farms as a farm labourer for one year.

In the summer of 1928, he left Saskatchewan and came to Alberta, where he decided to homestead in the Lac Canard district, section N½ 34-56-9.

In 1932, he married Jean Gorash from the Lac Bellevue district. Together they farmed on the homestead for 34 years, and in that time they expanded their half section homestead to a two section farm. They operated an extensive dairy farm and were the highest cream shippers, plus bought their own equipment, to run threshing outfits that served the neighborhood throughout the years. Gerhard also served on The Lac Canard School Board, as a Trustee for ten years.

Gerhard and Jean raised a family of seven; Haitie, Alice, John, Ann, Jerry, Mary and Lawrence. The children attended Lac Canard School



1965 — Thoben Family: Jerry, Alice, Mary, Ann, John, Haitie, Mrs. Thoben, Gerhard Thoben, and Lawrence.



1962 — Threshing: John Thoben, Lionel Ayotte, on rack. Henry Lanfermann pitching bundles in machine. Mr. Gerhard Thoben picking bundles from ground.

until it closed, then they continued their education in the Town of St. Paul. At this time Haitie, (Mrs. Joe Tchir) resides in Bellis, Alberta, Alice (Mrs. Lionel Ayotte), Ann (Mrs. Don Nikirk), Mary (Mrs. Gene Wedesh), and Lawrence all reside in Edmonton, Jerry residing in Wetaskiwin, Alberta, and John still residing in the St. Paul district.

Gerhard and Jean retired in 1966. They moved to the Town of St. Paul, where they bought a home, where Jean still lives. Gerhard passed away June 19, 1974.

JOHN AND PATRICIA THOBEN AND FAMILY

by John and Pat Thoben

I was born and raised on the family farm, which my father took as a homestead in 1928, Section N $\frac{1}{2}$ 34-56-9. I attended the Lac Canard country school, approximately 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles cross-country from our farm. I worked with my Mom and Dad on the farm.



John Thoben Family — 1981. Top row: Rick, Roy, Wayne. Bottom row: Irene, Patricia, John, Johnny.



1976 — John Thoben tearing down Gerhard Thoben's old homestead house.

In 1954, my dad purchased a quarter, and a fraction (SE 4-57-9), from Steve Makowecki, for me to start farming.

In 1958, I purchased 2 quarters (S $\frac{1}{2}$ 33-56-9) from Ted Gadowski.

In 1963, I married Patricia Friel, from the Village of Ashmont. We continued farming with Mom and Dad, until they retired in 1966. We then bought the family farm, and Mr. and Mrs. Gerhard Thoben moved to St. Paul.

In 1967, our centennial project was building a new dairy barn. It was stanchioned for 36 milk cows. In 1969, we expanded our operation with another half section of land (SW 4-57-9) and SE 5-57-9). We were increasing our beef herd.

In the summer of 1975, July 17, was one of the worst years, since I started farming. I had 540 acres hailed out 100%, and also lost 2 cattle sheds, and a 1650 bushel steel bin in the storm. The steel bin blew $\frac{1}{2}$ mile through the field across the road, and landed in the trees where it still can be seen today. The next year, we increased our operation by renting a section of land.

In 1979, the rape and cattle prices were good, which led to the building of our new home. We have a family of five children, Ricky, Wayne, Roy, Irene and Johnny, who are still at home. They are continuing their education in St. Paul.

At the present time we operate four sections of land, which contributes to our dairy, beef and grain operation.

JOSEPH ROBERT TOMLINSON

By J.R. Tomlinson

London, England was the birthplace of J.R. Tomlinson, and he was given the name Joseph

Robert, when he was born, September 7, 1890. His father ran the "Black Business" — undertaker's coachman in London. He was Robert Tomlinson and his wife, Sarah Isabella Percival.

Life was not too pleasant for J.R. at home so he planned to leave England. His mother had made a lucky bet on the "Derby" in 1906 and paid his passage to Canada. He crossed on the "Acadian" — a ship belonging to the Cunard Steamship Lines.

A farmer in MacAuley, Manitoba had advertised for an English lad to work with horses, and J.R. was fortunate enough to be hired. Later he moved to Edmonton and went into construction, building stations for the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway, with wheel-barrows, pick and shovel. At this time he had also filed on a homestead at Little Fish Lake (now called Brosseau Lake), next to P.A. Coutu's farm. He forgot that improvements were supposed to be made within a specified time and he had not done them, so he lost it. He kept on working for the railroad through Tête Jaune, B.C. and on to Vancouver.

When the First World War broke out Joseph volunteered in the Peace Corps and then, with the 19th Alberta Dragoons went to England, February 1915. In August 1915, he married Ellen Nellie Lee. Then he went to France and in 1916 he received an

abdominal wound in the Battle of the Somme. At that time surgery for such a wound was practically unknown but the Medical Corps did the best they could. Twice the French authorities declared him dead, but fortunately these reports were disproved. He recovered due to his strong physical condition but it took two years.

On his discharge from the Army in 1918, Mr. and Mrs. Tomlinson lived in Strathcona while he worked in the main post-office in Edmonton. Then through the Soldier Settlement Board he obtained N.W. ¼ 32-56-11-W4th, near present day Foisy post-office, and went farming. He was a breeder of Shorthorn cattle, Yorkshire and Hampshire hogs.

Joseph sold his farm in 1971 and retired in St. Paul where he had bought a house. At Christmas time 1972, Nellie was crossing the street near the IGA store when she was struck by a skidding bus and was killed.

On June 1, 1974, Joseph Tomlinson married Ada Lucille Chapman (nee Moran) who had come from England in 1924. Her husband had been a butcher at the St. Paul Co-op before his death and had been good friends of the Tomlinsons from "way back". Joseph and Ada are happy in their little home in St. Paul. Joseph still likes gardening, including the cultivation of strawberries, and fruit trees.



Mr. Joseph Tomlinson leading stock parade at the St. Paul Fair, July 29 - 30, 1954. Monarch Pride, 3 year old Shorthorn bull, 1st and Champion Shorthorn bull at the fair. Followed by Lady Orange Blossom, 1st Shorthorn Cow. Lady's bull calf, 4 months old, 2nd prize at rear. Marigold Beauty 2nd prize cow, behind Lady.



Nellie and Joseph Tomlinson, in St. Paul after retirement in 1971.

Mr. Joseph R. Tomlinson led a constructive public life: Councillor of the Champlain M.D.; Director of the Agricultural Society, president and chairman for 25 years; North East Alberta Co-op, director for 30 years; Alberta Livestock Association (Edmonton) director for 20 years; St. Paul Co-op, director for 30 years; Farmer's Union of Alberta, member; Wheat Pool, member.

Mr. Tomlinson's biggest interest throughout his life has been his country, his community and Man's World in general.

ROBERT (BOB) TOMLINSON

By Cecile Tomlinson

Robert (Bob) Tomlinson was born May 23, 1922, oldest son of John Holiday Tomlinson and Rose Wintel.

In 1923, Mr. and Mrs. J.R. Tomlinson became his foster parents.

When Bob was eight years old, he began attending Big Fish Lake School (later renamed Foisy School) with Miss Lucille Gagné as his teacher. In the fall of 1936, he contracted whooping cough and was sick all winter. In the spring, he had reached the age when he could legally leave school, so he never resumed his classes.



Bob and Cecile Tomlinson on their 25th Wedding Anniversary November 19, 1970.



The Tomlinson Boys with their teacher, Miss Arsenia Lopez, centre front, and their class in app. 1969. L. to R. Back row: Joe Tomlinson, Arthur Foisy, Robert Tomlinson.

Bob went farming, using horses, from 1937-1948 when he began using power machinery, but Bob still uses his horses for many of the chores around the farm.

On November 19, 1945 Bob Tomlinson married Cecile, daughter of Phileas Jean and Marie Jeanne Dumont, in St. Paul. They had a wedding dinner at her home and the wedding supper at his father's home. The wedding dance was held in the Legion Hall in St. Paul, followed by a lunch at her place. The wedding festivities lasted all night. The following morning, Bob and Cecile were leaving, by train, for their honeymoon. The musicians Frank Gordey, Oscar Missel, Past Willar followed them to the station and played until the train disappeared along the track.

On their return, they settled on SE $\frac{1}{4}$ -5-57-11-W4th where there was only a log shack and a barn. Bob moved the house and remodelled it. He also improved the farmstead with more buildings so that he could raise chickens, hogs, sheep and horses. They have always worked on the same farm, never taking a holiday.



Robert Tomlinson Family. L-R: Robert (Bob), Cecile, Maurice, Charles, Joe, Robert, insert - Albert.

Bob and Cecile have five children:

Albert — born October 14, 1946, was married on November 30, 1968, has four children and is a labourer.

Morris Robert — born February 15, 1949, was married on September 2, 1972, has two children and is District Manager for Oil Pump Industry.

Charles Gerald — born September 15, 1955, was married on August 23, 1975, and is a carpenter.

Joseph Bernard — born December 21, 1957, is a serviceman for Oil Pump Industry.

Robert Lawrence — born December 21, 1959, was married, has one son. Robert is now a Welder.

Bob's father, John Holiday Tomlinson, died August 7, 1961 and his mother Rose Tomlinson on January 14, 1980. They are buried in Langley, B.C.

JOHN AND KATIE (nee Tymofichuk) TRACH

By Katie Trach

John Trach was born at Lac Bellevue in February 1921. He had grade one schooling. There was no school close enough to get educated, not even elementary.



John and Katie Trach - June 8, 1946.



Mr. and Mrs. Aksenchuk, John Trach's stepfather and mother - March 1960.

He wore hand me downs. Many summer days he went barefooted. Shoes that he did get were old hand me downs, full of holes and many times in winter his feet were frostbitten.

At the age of fourteen his dad died. John worked for different farmers from the age of fourteen to the age of twenty-one.

He was in the army from 1941 until beginning of November 1945.

John has three brothers; Mike, Steve and Walter, and four sisters; Jennie, Stafka and Annie living, Juna died at the age of seven years old.



John Trach in Army - May 1942.



July 1938 - Henley school. Mrs. Nancy Shemluk teacher - Katie Trach at front row far left.

In December of 1945 John met Katie Tymofichuk at a school concert. In June 1946 John and Katie were married.

I (Katie Trach) was born in Lake Eliza, Alberta. I have four brothers; Nick, Mike, Joe and Bill, and two sisters; Rosie and Annie. Sister Annie died in December 1960. A few years later mother died in February, 1969. Some four years later February 1973 dad died.

From the ages 7 to 15 years I went to school. There were many drifts of snow in winter and I walked. I also walked barefooted for years in summer. But then I finally got a pair of shoes. After a rainfall I would take my shoes off so I wouldn't ruin them.

Hand me downs is what I wore for clothes and sure was glad to get them.

From 15 years to 19 years of age, I had to learn the true meaning of how to do chores daily, and appreciated it more as time went by. There were cows to be milked, hogs to be fed, and wood to be split and brought in for making fires in stoves.

There was also other chores to be done including planting gardens in spring, and harvesting in the fall.

Looking back, should I do it over again. I probably would. I wish I had some of today's knowledge than what I have today. I would do things a bit different, maybe easier to cope with.

At the age of 18 I met John Trach at a school concert in December of 1945. In June of 1946 was our big day. John and I got married. We stayed on the farm till fall. We sold the farm and moved to Lac La Biche. We stayed there for some time. That's where our oldest daughter Jeanette was born in May, 1947. There was not much future in that town. We just were unable to make ends meet. The place was left behind.

In spring of 1948 we moved a bit further north to a town called Faust. John worked in a small saw mill there until December 1, 1948. Then the tenth day of December 1948 we moved to the West Coast, Pitt

Meadows, B.C. That is where we bought our first home. Living in a 18 ft. by 16 ft. house was like a castle for me. Electric lights and city water but no indoor plumbing.

Not far from home John worked at a peat plant. Then in the fall of 1949 he worked in different saw mills.

In December of 1949 our second child was born, a son David. By now our place was paid for. Boy, what a great relief! Yet nothing came easy for John and me. There were many others that struggled even harder than we did.

Now some three more years came and went. The year 1953 our third baby came. His name was Norman.

We lived in Pitt Meadows till March 1958. We sold our property to the airport. We then moved to Haney, B.C. or Maple Ridge as it is known today. This place we bought and paid for. Our three older children were married here at home. We also had many happy days watching our family growing up.

In September, 1967 our last child was born, another daughter, Maureen.

In spring of 1967 our oldest grandchild was born.

John retired in December 1977 due to poor health. Being a diabetic it got the best of him. Watching him suffer all this time was very painful to me.

In July 1980, John died of a heart attack. Memories are the only things my family and our ten grandchildren have left.

AIMÉ TREMBLAY

By Delphine Jodoin (nee Tremblay)

Aimé Tremblay, son of Napoleon Tremblay and Delphine Murray was a native of La Malbaie, P.Q. In 1909, he hitched a ride on a freight train and arrived at Fort Edmonton with a meagre sum of \$900.

Upon his arrival on April 10, 1909, he filed his homestead for the sum of \$10.00. It took 4 days to reach it, on horseback, for it was located 120 miles North-East of Edmonton, at Lafond, 9 miles South-



The Aimé Tremblay's Family: Back row: Louis-Aimé, Antoine, Napoleon, Ernest. Front row: Aimé Sr., Delphine, mother, Mary (Fontaine) Tremblay.

West of St. Paul. To hold the homestead, he had to brush 10 acres in 3 years. He pulled the big trees and stumps with oxen and horses. Aimé cleared his 30 acres alone, working from early daylight till late hours in the night.

He had bought a team of horses, a few cows, some pigs and chickens at the St. Paul des Metis mission, operated by the Oblate Fathers.

On his homestead he built a log house with a sod roof and dirt floor. When it rained the roof leaked, so umbrellas were very useful then. Essentials, like tables, chairs, and beds were made from hewed logs. Comfort was unknown then. A buck stove gave heat and oil lamps, light.

So in 1913 he went back East to get a wife, but to his disappointment he came back alone. Then at a friend's wedding on May 24, 1913, he met Mary Fontaine, daughter of Antoine Fontaine and Marie Chagnon. Father Leclainche blessed their union in the St. Paul Catholic Church on July 7, 1913. About 30 friends attended dinner and supper at the bride's home. For entertainment, they told stories, played cards and games, but dancing then, was a no no. After an enjoyable evening, the newlyweds honeymooned at a friend's place where they slept on a wooden floor. The next day the happy couple drove to their beloved log house with a horse and buggy.

Now life became easier for Aimé as Mary was a good and diligent housekeeper, especially a tremendous cook. Gradually the family arrived. Napoleon was born on July 9, 1914, Antoine on Nov. 10, 1915, Ernest on June 2, 1919 and finally Delphine, a sweet little girl arrived on January 4, 1921. All were baptized at St. Bernard Church, Lafond.

Mrs. Anna Van Brabant, sister of Mary, acted as midwife for all the babies. They were all born at home with the assistance of Dr. Gagnon. But when Antoine, the second son arrived, he was born before the arrival of the doctor, so Mrs. Anna Van Brabant had to perform everything. "What an experience!" she narrated.

So the hard pioneer life carried on. Mrs. Tremblay used to cook meals from vegetables grown in the family garden and grains and animals raised on the farm. Aimé hauled merchandise with horses from Vegreville, 60 miles away. It took 2 days to go and 2 days to return. In exchange for hogs and grain, he brought back flour, sugar and all other necessities required on the farm.

During the hungry 30's, and to save money on lumber, Aimé with his sons Napoleon and Antoine went to lumber camps. They brought back lumber to build a new house, a barn and granaries. Mrs. Tremblay packed big wooden boxes of food, such as; salted pork, meat pies, home-made butter, bread etc. She packed enough food to last for a month or so. She was happy to see them come back safe and sound.

To prevent or cure different ailments, home remedies were very effective. In spring, as a prevention for flu, all the family took a laxative which consisted of a mixture of molasses and sulphur. To heal colds, onion syrup or a tea made with "herbe à dinde" (yarrow), was sipped. Mustard and lard plasters were also placed on the chest. For blood poisoning and infection, a plaster of salted pork rind or a poultice of milk and bread was placed on infected wounds. In due time, healing took place.

Everyone gave a helping hand on the farm. Boys helped with the chores such as milking cows and feeding the horses, pigs and chickens. To locate the cows and more so, to scare Delphine, their young sister, the silly boys climbed straw piles with "horse and buggy". How they enjoyed that stunt! In spring before seeding time, everyone was in the field, filling the big "stone boat" with rocks. In the fall it was time for "stooking" and threshing.

Fun was also intermingled with work. Common winter sports were sleighrides and sliding down steep hills with cardboards, and homemade toboggans. In summer, it was mostly playing softball, and at night "kick-the-can". Some other sports were fishing with pitch forks, snaring rabbits and gophers, destroying crows' eggs, and trapping weasels and muskrats. The Xmas season was a merry one. Starting on Xmas Eve, each family in



Aimé Tremblay and Mary Fontaine's wedding photo, July 1, 1913.

turn prepared a sumptuous meal. All relatives were invited. This feasting lasted till January 6.

Education was also taken into consideration. All the children attended a 2-room school at Cartier. Grades 1 to 3 in one room and grades 4 to 8 in the other. The school was a mile and a half away so, in summer, we used our footmobile and in winter a little "cutter".

The depression years did not directly affect the family, because of the produce from the farm. Although money was scarce, there was always an abundance of the essential foods.

A new house was built in 1917 to replace the old log house. There were no facilities or luxuries. Hard water was drawn from a 20-foot well. For washing clothes, soft water was hauled in barrels from "sloughs" on a "stone boat" or a "Benett wagon". Clothes were scrubbed on a wash-board by hand.

Butter was made in churns from sour cream. Fresh cream was hauled once a week in big cans to the creamery.

Mrs. Tremblay had a spinning wheel. She would card and spin the wool herself. She was often seen in her rocking chair, knitting socks and mittens for the family.

But one by one the children grew up and left.

Napoleon, the eldest son, married Gertrude Lafrance on Nov. 3, 1937. Mr. Aimé Tremblay gave them a quarter, S.E. 28-57 West of 4. They were blessed with a family of 10, of whom 7 survived: Raymond, Marie-Claire, Gerard, Hector, Antoine, Eugene and Adele. A pair of twins died at birth.

Antoine, the second son, married Yvette Lafrance on Nov. 14, 1939. His dad also gave him a quarter section SE of 27-57-10 West of 4. They had 2 daughters Solange and Angele. Solange married Edouard Noel. They have 6 daughters: Bernadette, Marguerite, Joanne, Monique, Francine, Brigitte and one son, Antoine.

Angele married Ken McCleod. They have 2 daughters: Michelle and Tanya.

In 1947, Antoine accompanied Mr. Joseph Lafrance to harvest crops in Montana, U.S.A. While there, he contracted a virus that caused sleeping sickness, and was ill for about 8 days. He died August 19, 1947. Since Yvette, his wife was unable, because of poor health, to take care of their 2 daughters, Napoleon and Gertrude took Solange under their care and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Lafrance took Angele.

Ernest, the third son, married Emma Couillard on November 23, 1943. He also inherited a quarter section from his dad, NW 15-57-10 West of 4. They had 19 children — 10 boys and 9 girls; the first boy died, 18 survived: Alphonse, Marcel, Yvonne, Louise, Irene, Lucille, Doris, Denis, Rita, Helene, Victor, Pierre, Therese, George, Laurent, Alcide, Bernard, and Angele (the last 8 of which are still at home and single).

Louis-Aime, the fourth son, married Rose Lafreniere on August 6, 1946. Louis inherited his father's homestead, SW 22-57-10 West of 4. They had two children, Lorraine and Remi.

Delphine, the youngest and only daughter entered the convent of "Les Soeurs de l'Assumption" in January 1937. She stayed in the order for over 30 years. Because of ill health, she left the order in 1972. The same year on November 10, 1972, she married Roland Jodoin, a widower, with 9 children. Roland's wife had passed away a few months before. So Delphine inherited a ready-made family of 6 boys and 3 girls.

Now on May 24th, 1928 Marie Fontaine, daughter of Isidore Fontaine lost her mother. On June 8, 1928, Mr. and Mrs. Aimé Tremblay, god-parents to Marie, took her into their family and raised her.

Marie married Robert Lafrance on May 10, 1948. They had 14 children; Jean-Marie, Leo, Bertrand, Michel, Leona, Lucie, Colette, Carmen. (Michel, Yvonne, Aline, Cecile, Simone and Marilyn) are still at home and single.

Mr. Aimé Tremblay passed away at the age of 79, on March 13, 1956, and Mrs. Marie Tremblay passed away at the age of 92, August 13, 1967. They are both buried in the old St. Paul cemetery.

ALBERT AND EDNA (BERLINGUETTE) TREMBLAY

Albert Tremblay was born on Thanksgiving Day, October 12, 1918 in the humble prairie home of his parents Artemise, (originally from Robertval, Quebec) and Euchariste Tremblay (originally from Baie St. Paul, Quebec). Their sod and log house was located on their homestead (S.E. Quarter, Section 32, Township 57, Range 10) between St. Paul and Lafond, Alberta. The Tremblays had claimed and worked their land since April 10, 1909. Though



The Albert Tremblay Family — Front row: Edna, Suzanne, Albert. Standing: Vivianne and Sylvia. In 1954.



Wedding Picture of Albert and Edna (Berlinguette) Tremblay — November 6, 1939.

Fitfeenth Year

Popular Young Couple Married

400 People Attend

Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Berlinguette always do things in a large hospitable way. Their eldest daughter Edna became the lovely bride of Albert Tremblay on Monday at St. Brides church.

90 friends and relatives sat down to a sumptuous dinner at the bride's parent's spacious home.

400 invited guests congregated in the Elite hall to do honor to the happy couple. It was conceded the grandest affair of its kind held in the hall for years. The presents received filled a large check room of the theatre showing the esteem and high regard in which this charming couple are held. May we too join the throng that bid them many years of wedded happiness.

This wedding announcement was featured in the St. Paul Journal in the week of their wedding on November 6, 1939.

Albert was the fourteenth child born to Artemise and Euchariste, only eight siblings had survived the rigors of pioneer life. They were: Blanche (born November 20, 1906), Thomas (born December 13, 1909), Paul (born January 15, 1911), René (born March 1, 1912), Rose (born July 21, 1913), and Henri (born May 24, 1916). Subsequently Artemise gave birth to two more children, a son who died at birth and another sister for Albert, Cecile (born July 16, 1921).

Their three room sod and log house was their home until 1923. They had the luxury of a wood floor, and unless the rains lasted longer than three days, the sod roof kept them dry. A pioneer's favorite joke of the day was how they kept moving from room to room during the rainy season, to permit them to keep dry.

Albert was a slim, lively, blond, with mischief in his blue eyes. He and his brother Henri were close partners in their boyhood ventures, which while annoying or amusing to their parents, must have provided a welcome relief from the doldrums of pioneer life. Their antics included everything from staging private rodeos with wild unbroken horses,

to rolling and smoking their own cigars with tobacco which had been home-grown by their older brothers. These they hid in the henhouse to avoid detection. During the long prairie winters, they skated on sloughs and lakes and fashioned home-made skis and toboggans. Some of their favorite summer sports were baseball and horseback riding. This apparent idyllic country life was interrupted every summer by two weeks of chopping and cording of wood for fuel.

Every Sunday, the Tremblay family travelled by horse and democrat (wagon) six miles south to church in Lafond where mass was heard in Latin and French. Albert attended Doucet, a one-room eight grade school, two and half miles northeast of the Tremblay homestead. There he received a bilingual education, although only French was spoken at home. Like so many prairie boys, outdoor activities lured him from his school desk and when fifteen, his formal education ended. It was 1933 and the Great Depression allowed few choices to the teenagers of the time. Education beyond the eighth grade would have meant leaving home and paying board and room in St. Paul, Alberta. A new chal-

lenge for survival had to be met by this generation and Albert opted to try to support himself.

His first paying job was hauling grain and hogs seven miles to market in St. Paul for his brother-in-law, William Parkinson (husband to sister Blanche). Albert travelled by horse and wagon and was met at the marketplace by his employer who travelled by model T Ford. With the 25¢ per trip pay that Albert received, he frequently purchased a box of chocolates or candy kisses. Albert recalls that the prize in one such box was a wood pipe which his parents promptly confiscated, much to his displeasure. For two winters, he did farm chores for the Parkinsons at a salary of \$10. per month. Although Willy Parkinson was thirty years Albert's senior, a long-standing friendship and mutual respect developed which went beyond their brother-in-law or employer-employee relationship.

Summers were spent helping on the family farm where the short growing season required many hands to get the crops in before winter. Fifteen year old Albert recalls the difficulty he encountered in keeping pace with the stronger and more mature men of the threshing crews. After the 1935 harvest, Albert decided to look for an easier way to make a living. Though he ultimately hoped to find work in British Columbia, upon arrival in Edmonton while en-route, his friends advised him to return home where he would at least be assured of three meals a day and a place to sleep. Disappointed, he returned to the St. Paul area, this time to do farm chores for J.F. Berlinguette for \$15. a month. With his first savings of \$75, Albert purchased a second hand 1934 two-ton truck with which he earned his living, hauling grain for local farmers to St. Paul elevators. He also hauled lumber from nearby sawmills for neighbouring farmers, payment often being received as a share of the lumber cargo. As his trucking business expanded, Albert began trans-

porting livestock to Edmonton, returning with groceries and supplies for the St. Paul Cooperative store. One year later he bought a newer 1936 three-ton Ford truck and continued thereafter trucking until the spring of 1940.

Meanwhile, the friendship he had established with his former employers, Ruth and James Felix Berlinguette, was extended to their beautiful eldest daughter Edna. Edna Marie Berlinguette was born on March 15, 1917 on her parent's farm (West half, Section 28, Township 58, Range 10) near Owlseye, Alberta, about seven miles northwest of St. Paul. Her father, James Felix Berlinguette (originally from Quyon, Quebec) had moved to the St. Paul region in 1909, the same year as the Tremblays. He farmed land four miles directly north of the Tremblay homestead. Subsequently on September first, 1914 he married Ruth Anna Hurtubise (originally from Otter Lake, Quebec), the daughter of a local settler.

Edna's birthplace was a one-room log and sod cabin. One of her earliest recollections at age four, was the burning of the barns on their farm in 1921. This misfortune forced her father to travel 45 miles south to Warwick, Alberta to ask his parents for a rebuilding loan. Felix took Edna along and since it was her first lengthy trip, everything about it spelled adventure. They travelled in a horse-drawn top buggy. A highlight of this trip was the ferryboat crossing between Duvernay and Brosseau, as in 1921, the bridge had not yet been built.

Edna was the first of eleven children. Her first four siblings were brothers: Joseph (born January 19, 1919), Victor, (born May 13, 1921), Paul, (born December 1, 1924), and Omer, (born January 4, 1925). To Edna's delight, on her ninth birthday, (March 15, 1926) a sister named Thérèse was born. Edna's other brothers and sisters were Jean, (born March 26, 1928), Cecile (born November 21, 1930), Laurier, (born July 31, 1932), Jacques (born August 17, 1935), and Marguerite, (born July 14, 1939).

Similar to most farmers of Alberta's Lakeland area, the Berlinguettes practiced mixed farming. This proved to be fortuitous, especially during the Great Depression, because their farm produced most everything needed to provide a good life for their family and employees. Crops included wheat, barley, oats and a large vegetable garden. They raised cattle, hogs, and chickens. Milking was done by hand until 1933 when Delaval milking machines were introduced. The hogs were sheltered in pole-framed constructions on which straw was blown with the threshing machine. Since these were so easily set up, new ones replaced the used and contaminated buildings which were then burned, keeping disease among the hogs in check. Horsepower was "king on the prairies" during the 20's and 30's and the Berlinguette farm boasted as many as thirty-five horses and fifteen hired hands to help harvest the crops on its ever-expanding farmland.



Allison (Mick) Flucker (auctioneer), Albert Tremblay, Don Hutton (auctioneer) — taken in 1967, in front of the Tremblay Dairy Barn.

Edna and her siblings walked $\frac{1}{4}$ mile to the eight grade one-room Belzil School located on her parents' land. The school's proximity to the Berlinguette farmstead usually resulted in the teacher boarding with the family. There could be no excuse for not doing one's homework!

Church attendance meant a long seven mile trip to St. Paul for the family until Cork Church (St. Julian's) was built about 1928 three and a quarter miles west of their home. Cork Church also became the center for most of the local social activities. Edna remembers numerous happy get-togethers there with relatives and neighbours for picnics, chicken suppers, bingos, box socials and weddings.

The Berlinguettes built their "dream home" in 1929 for which they purchased new furnishings, linen china and silver. Their son Omer now makes his home there with his family.

Edna attended convent boarding schools in Vegreville and St. Paul in order to receive a high school education. At age 18, in 1935, she and her brother Joseph attended the Vermilion School of Home Economics and Agriculture. They graduated in the spring of 1937, Edna receiving a diploma in Home Economics and Joseph receiving his in Agriculture. They returned to the family farm where their new found skills were utilized. Edna managed the farm kitchen which fed from 15 to 30 people each meal, depending on the season of the year.

Meanwhile, Edna's friendship with Albert Tremblay blossomed into love. After a two year courtship, they were married on the frosty morning of November 6, 1939 at the Roman Catholic Church in St. Brides, Alberta. Father Carter officiated and the bridal party consisted of Cecile Tremblay, sister of the groom as bridesmaid, and Victor Berlinguette, brother of the bride as best man. A wedding breakfast was held at the grooms' parents home followed by a lavish dinner reception at the home of the brides' parents. The evening concluded with a large dance at the Elite Hall in St. Paul, attended by 400 guests.

The declaration of World War II in September of 1939 saw Albert busy in his trucking business through the winter of 1939 and 1940. Then, he and his bride turned to mixed farming as part of the war effort to provide food for our troops and those of our allies. They rented and lived on a half section of land owned by Michael McMahon, one and a half miles west of St. Paul on highway 28. With the help of their parents and with the sale of Albert's truck, they managed to purchase a quarter section near Lafond. During his first year of farming, Albert bought a John Deere tractor and other necessary equipment including a threshing machine, using the lumber he had acquired as a medium of barter. With the help of his brothers and neighbours, the crops were harvested. The sale of the truck left Albert and Edna with only a horse-drawn Democrat

for all transportation needs. One year later, they traded that for an old car which Edna used to deliver the cream to the St. Paul creamery, do her marketing and pick up the mail. The checks from the sale of cream covered most household expenses for items not produced on their farm.

The highlight of 1940 for Albert and Edna was the birth of their first daughter, Vivianne on September 5th. She was the first grandchild born to the Berlinguette family and the first grandchild carrying the Tremblay name on her father's side of the family.

In 1942 the Tremblays purchased one half section (South $\frac{1}{2}$, Section 36, Township 57, Range 11 Meridian 4) near St. Brides, from Albert's brother Thomas, and sold their Lafond property. This new property served as their home until 1945. Meanwhile a second daughter Sylvia, was born on September 22, 1944.

Though the picturesque setting of their new home was one of Alberta's finest, Albert and Edna felt isolated, particularly when they were snowed in during the winter months and the roads became impassable. Their daughter Vivianne was reaching school age and they wanted her to receive a bilingual education. Consequently, the family made their final move in 1945 to the Southeast quarter, Section 7, Township 58, Range 10, Meridian 4. Their new home was seven miles west of St. Paul on Highway 28 and seemed to answer their need for better communications and also educational opportunities for their daughters. Services such as electricity, telephone and indoor plumbing were not yet available to members of this remote farming community.

The Tremblay family grew again in 1952 when a third daughter, Suzanne was born on March 27th.

Through the years, the Tremblay farm slowly changed. At one point, they managed a large dairy herd and many brood sows as well as sheep and chickens. When inflation prohibited hired help, they converted their farming operation to feedlots for cattle and hogs which consumed their grain crops.

Their two eldest daughters Vivianne and Sylvia attended the one-room eight grade bilingual Doucet School, two and a quarter miles east of their farm until a vast school-centralization program, started in 1953, enabled them to bus to St. Paul for the remainder of their education. Suzanne attended school in St. Paul from first through twelfth grades.

Vivianne followed in her mother's footsteps and received a diploma in Home Economics at the Vermilion School of Agriculture. Sylvia received a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Ottawa while attending College Saint Jean in Edmonton. Suzanne pursued a career in teaching after receiving a Bachelor of Education Degree from the University of Alberta in Edmonton.

Albert Tremblay belonged to most of the local farm organizations. He was president of the Doucet Mutual Rural Telephone Organization for some fifteen years from the time of its inception in 1952. Before that there had been no telephone service in their area. He served as a director of the Roman Catholic Church in St. Brides for three years (1968-71) and as director of the St. Brides Rural Electrification organization for six years. He was a very active member of the local Farmers Union for many years.

In 1959 Edna organized a 4H garden club which she led for nine years. She also participated in the Farm Union Womens' Association of Alberta as a director in 1960. Edna has served as an elected board member of the St. Paul Cooperative from 1965 to 1980 as well as serving as a member of the Conseil Albertain de la Cooperative for three years. As agricultural chairperson of the St. Paul Chamber of Commerce, Edna did a great deal of leg work to convince many individuals of the feasibility of building a cheese factory in St. Paul, to provide an economically beneficial industry to that community. After three years of arduous work, the new Northern Alberta Dairy Pool creamery and cheese factory became a reality in 1973.

Albert and Edna are still living on the farm they moved to in 1945. There, they are enjoying semi-retirement in the lovely home they built in 1975. Edna pursues her life-long hobby of gardening. Albert, an active member of the St. Paul Flying Club continues to fly his Piper Tripacer, thus enjoying the panoramic view of the St. Paul Lakeland area.

Although their daughters have married and become city dwellers, they and their families share the special benefits of rural life during their frequent visits home. Their daughters and sons-in-law gathered in Edmonton on November 6th, 1979 for a surprise celebration honoring their parents on the occasion of their 40th wedding anniversary.

The Tremblays have six grandchildren: Albert Warsing (born July 28, 1964), Neil Warsing (born July 11, 1968), Desiree Traub (born July 28, 1967), Angela Traub (born June 27, 1969), Philip Schnell (born August 20, 1975), and Andrew Schnell (born November 21, 1979).

ANTOINE AND YVETTE TREMBLAY (née Lafrance) AND FAMILY

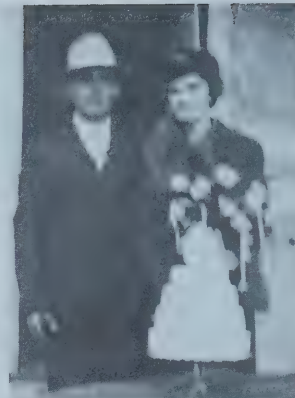
by their Daughters

Antoine, second oldest son of Aimé Tremblay and Marie Fontaine was born on November 10, 1916. At the age of six years, he began his brief education at Cartier, a country school. In 1929, he was a student at Collège St. Jean in Edmonton for one year. This completed his formal education.

His first employment was as hired man for Mr. Joseph Lafrance, for a monthly wage of ten dollars. There, he became known as a dependable, consci-



Antoine Tremblay with two daughters: Angèle left and Solange right, taken the day before he left for Montana.



Antoine and Yvette Tremblay (née Lafrance) married November 14, 1941.

entious and hard-working man. Antoine and Yvette Lafrance, his future wife, began their courtship at this time. Antoine's parents lived only a few miles away from the Lafrance farm, so he simply crossed the fields to visit Yvette. It is said that he was once frightened by a sow, roaming the tall wheat plants, which forced him to jump a barbed wire fence. To his surprise he found his pants torn when he arrived at Yvette's house. They courted for four years before they were married at the St. Bernard's Catholic Church, in Lafond on November 14, 1939. On their wedding day, the groom's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Aimé Tremblay, entertained guests for lunch and the bride's parents had a small reception in their home in the evening. Yvette's help on the farm was much appreciated by her parents and she was missed greatly. At her wedding reception she sang "Souvenir de mes Cheveux Blancs" which is remembered by many as a touching farewell to her parents.

The happy couple moved to their quarter section, S.E. 27-57-10-4. Antoine's eldest brother Napoleon, was given a quarter section of land by his



Edouard Noel and Solange (Née Tremblay) Noel. Wedding — July 9, 1958.



The Edouard Noel Family in 1975.

father, with no livestock or implements to make the farm functional. Antoine requested livestock as his due and chose to purchase his farm from his father by making annual payments.

To obtain lumber for the construction of buildings and to finance the farm, Antoine worked in lumber camps in the winter. He managed his financial affairs well and soon had a modest little farm with reasonable buildings, machinery and livestock.

On April 20, 1941 Antoine and Yvette welcomed the arrival of their first child, Solange. Two and a half years later, on July 14, 1943, a second daughter, Angèle, was born. Shortly after Angèle's birth, Yvette suffered a serious illness, from which she never recovered.

Antoine continued to manage his affairs as well as could be expected. He was very fond of his two daughters who were cared for by his brother and wife, Napoleon and Gertrude, and Yvette's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jos Lafrance.

In July 1947, he agreed to go with Mr. Lafrance on harvest contracts in the U.S.A. They had planned on travelling through several states, accepting harvest contracts from which Mr. Lafrance hoped to clear his debt on a new truck and combine.

During their stay in Montana, Antoine became severely ill with high fever. Within a few days, he was in a coma from which he never recovered. He passed away in Wolfpoint, Montana, on August 19, 1947. His body was returned to Canada, where his funeral was held in Lafond on August 25, 1947.

Many remember him as a pleasant and well-liked man.

Solange, remained under the care of her aunt and uncle and Angèle was brought up by her grandparents. Mr. and Mrs. Lafrance also cared for their daughter, Yvette, for many years as she suffered a stroke in 1948 after brain surgery.

Solange received her elementary and Junior High education at Lafond School. She attended the Assumption Academy in 1957. In 1958, she worked at the St. Thérèse Hospital in St. Paul. She married Edouard Noel from St. Paul on July 9, 1958. They are the proud parents of six daughters and one son.

Bernadette born 18 December, 1959.

Marguerite born July 25, 1961.

Joanne born September 2, 1962.

Monique born July 2, 1964.

Francine born April 26, 1967.

Bridget born August 25, 1971.

Antoine born January 24, 1974.

Edouard Noel has been working for John Deere for 17 years (1964-1981) and he also has been playing music in a band for 26 years. Solange has been the quiet housewife and mother.

At the age of 5, Angèle was initiated to Mlle. Heroux's Kindergarten classes in St. Paul. She then attended St. Paul's "Pavillon du Rosaire" from grades one to eight after which she completed



Kenneth MacLeod and Angèle Tremblay. Married July 6, 1966.



Kenneth and Angèle MacLeod and two daughters Michelle and Tanya MacLeod.

grades 9 to 12 at the Academie Assomption in Edmonton. She then worked as diocesan leader for Catholic Action in St. Paul, for two years, after which she attended "L'Ecole Normale du Christ-Roi" in Trois-Rivières, Quebec. The following year she obtained a Teacher's Certificate from the University of Alberta.

Angèle was married on July 6, 1966 to Kenneth Neil MacLeod at the church of Our Lady of the Assumption in Edmonton, Alberta. They have two daughters: Michelle Marie born October 22, 1969 and Tanya Lee born April 11, 1974.

MR. AND MRS. ANTOINE TREMBLAY

by Thérèse Tremblay (nee Gagné)

Antoine, son of Napoleon Tremblay and Gertrude Lafrance, was born July 10, 1948. He was a good baby, grew fast and was soon of school age. He attended Lafond School from 1954-1962. Then he stayed at home to help his father with the farming. He also worked for many farmers in the neighborhood for \$5.00 a day and more than an 8 hour day also. The jobs were many; doing field work and picking rocks in the spring, haying in the



Wedding picture of Antoine and Thérèse Tremblay — 1968.

summer, threshing in the fall and cutting firewood in winter.

Once out of school, boys became adults quickly in those days. At 15 years of age, Antoine had his own team and rack on the threshing crew and he kept up with the others. He also stooked for \$1.00 per hour or with his brothers took contracts at a fixed price per acre, depending on how heavy the crop was. He went out helping at haying time also.



The Antoine Tremblay Family. L-R: Thérèse holding Cheryl, Antoine holding Carole, Rosanne. Sitting: Jean-Guy.



The four tractors moving Cartier School.

His job was to clear the bales as they came from the baler, and stack them on the flat rack. That meant handling about 100 bales per hour for \$1.00 which means 1 cent per bale. This kept up for eight or nine hours a day, so that figures out to \$8.00 or \$9.00 per day, real good wages for those days.

During the winter months, Antoine, his older brothers and some neighbors worked for the County of St. Paul #19, clearing and burning the brush in the ditches.

Later, Napoleon Tremblay, Antoine's father, bought his own saw mill, so the boys were out cutting logs, hauling them to the mill, then helping to saw them. Roland Parenteau hauled out the lumber, 1200 ft. of green planks per load, all loaded by hand which meant from 1½ to 2 hours of steady work for 4 men. Antoine also worked in the bush camps north of Fort McMurray for another winter project.

His first big job away from home was for the County of St. Paul #19 driving a cat and scraper at \$1.10 per hour. That was when the Lafond road was rebuilt, starting at Highway 28, going southward. Was Antoine ever happy to be driving a big cat!

In 1968, Antoine and I, Thérèse Gagné, were married, after a three year courtship. We lived in

Fort McMurray for the first five months where Antoine worked in a sawmill. We lived in a small trailer, 8 x 34 feet, which Armand Theroux had moved for us from St. Paul to Fort McMurray.

The winter of 1969 was very cold, very often 60° below and the mill did not always operate, due to the intense cold. After five months of hard times, we decided to move back to Lafond. Armand Theroux moved our little trailer to Napoleon Tremblay's farmyard. In Lafond, Antoine worked on cats for Williams, at two dollars an hour. He was the first cat driver in the community pasture and worked alone for two weeks. Then 4 more cats came in and in all, they cleared fifteen hundred acres.



This shows the sandpoint, invention of Joe Lafrance, being used by Antoine Tremblay, standing on the barrel, turning the handle back and forth, as water was pumped into it, continuously

When spring came there was no work with the cats. At this time our first child, Jean-Guy was born. Shortly afterwards, we decided to go by train to visit relatives in Prince George, B.C. During our visit, Antoine was offered a job at the Domtar Chemical Plant as a labourer. He accepted and we stayed. He began work on May 1, 1970 with wages of \$4.35 an hour. Not long afterwards, he was promoted to forklift operator at \$4.69 an hour. We stayed on in Prince George for four years. Our second child, a daughter, Rosanne, was born in 1971.

In 1973 we bought our second home, a trailer, 12' x 68'. That same year we also bought four acres of land, the old Cartier School site, which also included the old school, which had been transformed into the Cartier Community Hall, but was no longer used. Antoine's dream had always been to return to Alberta, so on Feb. 24, 1974, we moved back to this area. Antoine first worked for farmers in the St. Vincent area, until allergies forced him to stop that kind of work. He then worked at St. Paul Meat Packers, a job for which he was well qualified, as he had worked with his parents when they had



Antoine Tremblay operating the town backhoe, at work in St. Paul
— 1979.

the Packing Plant. He still makes very tasty sausage, and goes out to help friends who haven't acquired this skill. While he worked at the Packers, we rented Robert Lamoureux's farmstead.

In 1974 our third child, a girl, Carole was born. In 1975, we decided to move our trailer from Prince George to our acreage. Roland Theroux of Two Hills did the moving. We dug a well and installed a sewer system. In March 1976, our fourth child, another daughter Cheryl, was born. We decided to move the old school, westward, to the back of the property. It was picked up, skids were pushed under it and four tractors operated by Robert Lafrance, Antoine Tremblay, Rudolphe Cote and Frank Schwengler hitched on to it and got it moved. Laurent Brousseau, had well directed the enterprise and soon the old school was directly west of its previous location.

The first well dug on our property was with a backhoe and a sandpoint. The backhoe dug 29 feet and the sandpoint went some 70 feet further down. This sandpoint was an invention of grandfather, Joe Lafrance. Many wells were dug in this manner. Unfortunately, the water was unfit for human consumption, due to its high alkali content, so we hauled water from the neighbor's.

In 1979 we decided to have a well drilled and did this ever pay, as we now have an artesian well which provides us with an abundance of good drinking water. We also bought a larger home — a double wide trailer, installed on a full basement.

Antoine is now working for the Department of Waterworks for the Town of St. Paul.

ERNEST TREMBLAY FAMILY

by Ernest Tremblay

I was born in a log shack, on the 2nd of June 1917, the third child of Aimé Tremblay and Marie Fontaine. I went to Cartier School for eight years.



The Ernest Tremblay Family.

Back row: Laurent, Yvonne (partly hidden), Alphonse, Denis (only forehead showing), Victor. 2nd row from back: Pierre, Irène, Louise, Georges, Thérèse. Third row from back: Hélène, Lucille, Rita, Doris, and Marcel. Front row: Bernard, Emma, Angèle, Ernest, and Alcide.



May 13th, 1974. Emma and Ernest standing in front of the machinery lined up ready for the sale.

My school days weren't too great, because I spent two years in grade one. I was so afraid of my teacher. At eleven years of age, I had to stay home from school, as I had heart trouble. This lasted for one year. Dr. Gagnon's excellent care and prescriptions, complete rest, out in the open air when possible, cured me. Finally at thirteen years of age, I was lucky to get a teacher who could teach arithmetic. At sixteen years of age, I quit school, and at seventeen, my parents sent me to work for one of our neighbors, to pay for a horse my dad had bought. My earnings were \$5.00 a month. All my earnings went to my parents, till the age of 26 years. When I was 25 years old, on a Sunday evening, I went to play cards with my parents at Mr. Couillard's, where I renewed my acquaintance of Emma Couillard.

Emma was born on May 20th 1924, the third child of Philippe Couillard and Marie-Louise Bouchard. She also went to Cartier School to grade nine. She started school when I was almost finished my school days. We went to the same school for one year. I always had remembered her great kindness. She used to talk so low that I had a hard time to hear what she said. She travelled the four miles to school with horses. Rain or shine, she never missed a day. She succeeded well in school. She can read, write and count very well. I am lucky to have her as my secretary. I went out with Emma for the first time on Valentine's Day. My mother was so strict, I had to be back at 12 o'clock. We went out together for nine months.

We were married on the 23rd of November, 1943 at six o'clock in the morning because there were three marriages that day. Then we took the train at 8:30 a.m. for our honeymoon in Edmonton. That was the first trip we ever had made on a train. After we came back, we had a wedding dance in Mr. Hanson's old garage in Lafond. We received one wedding gift, a mixing bowl, which was used to make lots of cookies. Ernest was given a quarter section of land by his parents, N.W. 15-57-10-W4, and on that section of land there was an old house in which no one had lived for quite a few years. It was

so dirty that it was discouraging but we soon cleaned it up. There were only 70 acres broken on the farm. I had to go hunting rabbits, which I sold for .02¢ each at a fox ranch in St. Paul. Another source of revenue was cutting stove wood, which I sold for \$2.00 a load. In the spring, we were given five cows by our parents. We milked the cows and sold cream to buy our food. Then I decided to have more land cleared. We organized a bee with some of our neighbors and friends and in one day, we cleared seven acres with axes only. In 1948, 1949 and 1950, there were droughts. We were three years without a crop. By then, I had eight cows which was all I could keep. I borrowed money to clear the rest of my land, a little bit every year. The more it went, the more we prospered. The family started to grow up so fast, I had to start buying more land, farm equipment and more cows. Food and clothing were the least of our troubles because my wife sewed for the children. Things were not always easy. My wife was sick most of her life and a few of our children were affected by sickness too. We were lucky to be insured, for it helps with medical expenses. When we raised our family we always had a hired girl for a month after each child was born. It was a problem to get them, because nobody wanted to work for a big family like ours. When the children were old enough to take care of the younger ones, we didn't have to hire any more girls. The oldest boy died at birth.



Emma and Ernest on their wedding day, November 23rd, 1943.

Alphonse Tremblay of St. Edouard, born on the 26th of April 1946, married Juliette Fontaine. They have a family of three children: Diane, Denise and Richard.

Marcel Tremblay of Morinville, Alberta, born on the 12th of September, 1947, married Irene Charbonneau. They have a family of two: René and Mariline.



The Tremblay children with Ernest's two tractors. On the tractors: Alphonse and Marcel. In front: Louise, Yvonne, Lucille, Doris and Denis. Taken in 1960.

Yvonne Tremblay of St. Edouard, born on the 8th of July 1949, married Magella Pelchat. They have a family of three: Carol, Nicole, and Claire.

Louise Tremblay of Lafond, born on the 10th of October 1950, married Gordon Dunning. They have a family of two: Michelle and Gerald.

Irene Tremblay of St. Brides, born on the 8th of September, 1951, married Armand de la Salle. They have a family of three: Marc, Real and Roger.

Lucille Tremblay of Elk Point, born on the 6th of November 1952, married Jim Povaschuk. They have a family of two: Clinton and Stuart.

Doris Tremblay of Morinville, born on the 29th of December, 1953 married Claude Blais. They have a family of one: Daniel and another one on the way.

Denis Tremblay of Mallaig, born on the 9th of February, 1955, married Colette Dallaire. They have a family of two: Rachelle and Robert.

Rita Tremblay of St. Vincent, born on the 17th of May 1956, married Francis Dallaire. They have a family of three: Alain, Carmen and Norman.

Helene Tremblay of Lac la Biche, born on the 4th of July, 1957, married Gilles Marquis. They are starting their family. She is expecting soon, February 1980.

Victor Tremblay of St. Paul, born on the 11th of December 1958 is still living at home.

Pierre Tremblay of St. Paul, born on the 19th of March 1960 is still living at home.

Thérèse Tremblay of Red Deer, born on the 20th of May 1961 is still single.

George Tremblay of St. Paul, born on the 6th of July 1962 is still at home.

Laurent Tremblay of St. Paul born on the 5th of July 1963 is still at home.

Alcide Tremblay of St. Paul, born on the 22nd of April 1965 is still at home.

Bernard Tremblay of St. Paul, born on the 29th of December 1966 is still going to school.

Angèle Tremblay of St. Paul, born on the 26th of January 1968 is still at home and going to school.

The children were all born in the St. Thérèse Hospital of St. Paul.

In 1974 we decided to have an auction sale to sell machinery and cattle. With the money of the sale, we bought an apartment block, which we kept for a year and a half. After a few years of renting the farm we sold it and bought a house in town. We thought it would give our children a chance to get part-time jobs for after school. After raising a family of 18 children, we had an opportunity to travel. I had always said that I'd like to go and see where my parents were born, my wife and I went down east twice, to visit and get to know our relatives out there. I also wanted to go to Rome to see the Pope, but in 1980 we went to Israel instead.

We arrived in Televe on Holy Thursday. We went to mass in a Franciscan Church. On Good Friday we went to Jerusalem. We intended making the way of the cross, but there were so many people from all over the world that it was impossible to do so. We went from the first to the sixth station and there, our guide made us turn back. We spent five days in Jerusalem and Bethlehem. We saw where Jesus was born and crucified. From there we went to Nazareth. We drank water from the same well that Mary took her water. We visited so many places that it is too long to explain. In the future, if God keeps us in good health, we plan to travel some more. 1980 was a great year for us.

EUCCHARISTE AND ARTHEMISE TREMBLAY FAMILY

written by Sylvia (Tremblay) Traub

On February 5, 1906, Euchariste Tremblay married Arthemise Lavoie at Robertval, Quebec. Euchariste, better known as Carise, was born on August 5, 1870 at Baie, St. Paul where he lived with his parents Charles and Adele (Bolduc) Tremblay, two brothers and two sisters until he was orphaned at the age of 13 in 1893. From then on he supported



The Carise Tremblay's Family: Back row: Carise, Blanche, Arthemise. Front row: Thomas, Rose, Rene, Paul, Henri.



Second home built in 1923 by the Tremblay's. They had lived in a log and sod shack for 14 years. This type of architecture provided them with a large attic where Arthemise did her weaving, and spun her wool, and hung her clothes to dry in the winter months.

himself doing whatever jobs he could get. Many of these were south of the Canadian border. Subsequently he became "Captain and Proprietor of Vessels" in Superior, Wisconsin as described in his Quebec marriage contract to Arthemise.

Arthemise Lavoie was born on April 10, 1888 in Robertval, 18 years after her husband-to-be. She lived there with her parents Pascal Lavoie and Marie (Villeneuve) Lavoie and her two brothers and three sisters.

After their marriage they made their first home at 227 Main Street, Conors Point, West Superior, Wisconsin. It was there that their first child was born on November 20, 1906. She was christened Marianne Blanche but was always called Blanche as a play on words because of her raven coloured hair. A son was born on November 29, 1907 and named after his grandfather Charles. A second son Francis Tremblay was born on January 21, 1909.

The joys of this happy young family were to be marred by three tragedies in 1909 that would shape the events which changed their lives so completely. A fire destroyed Euchariste's wharf and left him almost penniless.

Thus, in the spring of 1909 Euchariste left his pregnant wife Arthemise and their three children in Superior and set off to claim a homestead in 'that great land of promise', the Canadian West. For ten dollars, he filed his claim (South East quarter, Section 32, Township 57, Range 10) near St. Paul des Metis, Alberta. When a log and sod cabin had been erected, he sent for his wife and children. But tragedy had struck twice again before he was to be reunited with his family. Baby Francis, barely six months old, died from complications of measles in July 1909 and his brother Charles died two months later on September 20, of scarlet fever.

Arthemise and Blanche who was then almost three years old, journeyed West by train with some of their belongings to Vegreville, Alberta. Euchar-

iste met them at the train and took them by horse and buggy to his homestead six miles west of St. Paul des Metis. Most of the furnishings moved were for the children. They included a collapsible high chair, a cane carriage, a wooden cradle and a wrought iron child's bed which it turned out would be the most serviceable of all. Bed bugs, it seemed, liked to nest in wooden furnishings and this often led to their early demise.

Other articles moved were a "Majestic stove" a rocking chair, china and a few boxes of fabric samples which Arthemise would sew into garments for her children.

With preparations for winter and the birth of a son Thomas Louis on December 13, 1909 (died February 8, 1958) the Tremblays must have had little time to brood over their great tragedy. Euchariste supported his family by transporting supplies from Vegreville, using horses and wagon, to the settlement of St. Paul. Arthemise, in addition to her family activities, provided midwifery services to the surrounding families.

During the ensuing years twelve more children were born. Six died a few days after birth. Six survived to adulthood:

Paul Eugene Tremblay, born January 15, 1911.
Rene Tremblay, born March 1, 1912, died March 27, 1969.

Rose Alice Tremblay, born July 21, 1913.

Henri Tremblay, born May 24, 1916, died January 12, 1943.

Albert Gerard Tremblay, born October 12, 1918.

Cecile Claire Tremblay, born July 16, 1921.

In 1912, Doucet School (district 2932) was built, five miles directly west of St. Paul, and two and a half miles from the Tremblay homestead. It was in this one room, eight grade school house that the children learned the three R's both in French and English. Weather permitting, they travelled to and from school in a "buck board" which was a sideless platform with a seat and four wheels. During the long cold prairie winters, they travelled by "cutter" a cousin of the sleigh. Both vehicles were drawn by their friend, Pete the horse.



Thomas Tremblay preparing land before breaking.

Of the furnishing brought West by Arthemise Tremblay, the wrought-iron bed served a second generation of children born in Western Canada. They were the children of Albert Gerard Tremblay and Edna (Berlinguette) Tremblay:

Vivianne Irene Tremblay (Worsing) born September 5, 1940.

Sylvia Maria Tremblay (Traub) born September 22, 1944.

Suzanne May Tremblay (Schnell) born March 27, 1952.

The Tremblay's crib-bed is now part of the Glen Bow Museum's Historical collection in Calgary.

Euchariste and Arthemise Tremblay lived on their homestead for fifty-three years until their deaths in 1962. Arthemise died on January 21st and Euchariste died two weeks later, on February 4th.

GERARD AND GERTRUDE (GAGNE) TREMBLAY FAMILY

by Gerard Tremblay

I, Gerard, second son of Napoleon Tremblay and Gertrude Lafrance was born in St. Paul Hospital on Feb. 13, 1943.

I started school in Lafond in 1949, the year the old school burned. I received all my elementary education in Lafond and quit school in 1959, at the age of 16, to help my dad on the farm. I started to work out at the age of 13, driving a tractor, cutting grain with a binder, at Jules Journault's at wages of \$4.00 per day.

In the fall of 1959, I went to work in the bush camps in High Prairie, where my grandfather, Joseph Lafrance, was working. I got a job rolling logs in the jack ladder, for 90¢ per hour and a 10¢ per hour bonus if I would stay till spring break-up but that didn't happen because my friend, Henri Bergeron and I, decided to go looking for higher



Former residence of Mr. and Mrs. Napoleon Tremblay, ready to be moved, by Gerard Tremblay, present owner. Gerard's new house is in the background. Taken September, 1980.



Returning from a very worthwhile hunting expedition. The truckbox has five moose in it while the sixth one is in the trailer, under the skidoos. Taken in 1978.

wages. We took the train and went to Prince George, B.C., where we got a job in a saw mill, 35 miles south of Vanderhoof, B.C. at \$1.35 per hour. I was tail sawer, plus millwrighting and welding at night, for the owner.

We had a misfortune there. At about 10:00 o'clock in the morning while we were working, the boss's dog came into the mill, barking his head off. When we looked up to see what was wrong, we saw that our 8' x 16' bunk house was on fire. It had been built of rough lumber and tar paper, a few years before. It didn't take very long to burn, to the ground, leaving the three of us with not too much. Henri Bergeron, Roland Ouellette and myself were living together. For myself, that morning I had borrowed my friend Rolland's boots because mine



The Gerard Tremblay Family: Nicole (10 yr.) Gerard, Gertrude holding 3 week old Joseph, Gerald (12 yr.), in front 8 yr. Roxanne.

were still wet from the day before. Lucky for Roland and myself, we had our money on us. Henri Bergeron was not so lucky because he had some of his money in the shack and of course, it burned.

The next few years, I used to go out working in B.C. during the winter and I'd come back farming in summer, till 1962. I then took a steady job at Lloyd Brothers saw mill, 42 miles west of Prince George, B.C. on the Vanderhoof Highway, the same mill, at which my brother-in-law, Edward Noel was working, at the time. I worked there until 1964, at good wages, about \$45.00 per day.



The above group of hunters were very lucky when they went out north of Lac La Biche at House River for their annual moose hunt.

The party hit the jackpot as they downed four big ones the afternoon they arrived and followed up by getting two more the following morning. We see the hunting party lined up with their trophies. They are L-R: Gerard Tremblay, Lucien Malo, Aurele Jean, Jules Fontaine, Roland Gervais, Hector Tremblay.

In the fall of 1964, my brothers Hector, Antoine and Eugene decided to cut fire wood for the neighbors at \$3.00 a load which brought us to Henri Robinson's farm. We decided to make lumber in his swamps, on a share basis. That kept us busy all winter. It was a good experience for my younger brothers. The following fall, I decided to buy a saw mill that my brother-in-law had started to rebuild and had not finished. I finished it and we went to saw lumber, north of the Beaver River near Seibert Lake, between townships 64 and 65.

In 1966, I met Gertrude Gagné whom I married on Jan. 14, 1967. The ceremony took place in the small Goodridge Church. We lived with my dad and mother until Gerald was born. Then we bought a house trailer which we set up on the farm, in the same yard as dad's house.

In 1966, I started to work for the St. Paul Foundry where in 1981, I still work, now as a shop foreman. I took a welding trade, apprenticing and attending the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology, during 4 years. In 1971 I got my journeyman ticket as a welder also my B pressure ticket.

In 1971, we bought my dad's farm, S.E. 28-57-10-W4th at which time my parents retired in St. Paul.

We lived in my parent's old house until 1979 when we built a new one which we are now enjoying.

We have four children: Gerald born Oct. 1st, 1967; Nicole, born Jan. 17, 1970; Roxanne, born May 9, 1972 and Joseph, born May 23, 1980.

LOUIS-AIMÉ TREMBLAY STORY

by Rose Tremblay

Louis-Aimé is the 4th son of the late Aimé Tremblay who came from Quebec in 1909.

Louis was born March 15, 1919. He inherited the homestead from his father in 1945, the S.W. 22-57-10-4.



L-R: Louis-Aimé Tremblay, his wife Rose, Rose's parents Laura and Antelaus Lafreniere. Taken in 1971.

Louis and Rose (née Lafrenière) born June 12, 1928 were married on August 6, 1946 in Lafond.

We were eight miles from the closest railroad station, St. Paul. Our first tractor to work the farm was bought in 1944, a Farmall John Deere.

Our schools were not like those of today. We had no electricity, not even a coal oil lamp, heat came from a big box stove in the middle of the room. Water had to be carried in buckets by the school children from the closest farmer's place. We had out houses for bathrooms.

Our closest Church was St. Bernard at Lafond. Reverend Paul Mailloux was the priest at the time.

We would go ice fishing in winter, berry picking in summer, with the big wagons.

In April 1952, we moved to St. Paul. We bought the slaughter house on the south side of town. We would slaughter four days a week. We only slaughtered. Then the meat was brought to the St. Paul Co-op for cooling and cutting, or people brought their meat home to cut up themselves. We had different people to help, only one at a time. They were: Joseph Lafortune, Arthur Fontaine, Henri Lafrenière, Napoleon Tremblay.



Farm home in Lafond. Mr. and Mrs. Aimé Tremblay, Louis-Aimé's parents; Rose and Louis-Aimé Tremblay. Taken in 1946.

We also had sows and we would sell weaner pigs. We had four cows and some chickens.

Then in 1964, we had to stop everything for reasons of health. We still live at the same place in 1980, only a new house was built in 1977.

We have two children:

Lorraine was married to Lucien Leroux in 1965. They have 2 girls: Aline and Gisèle, and are living in St. Paul.

Remi was married to Carol Hutton in 1973. They have 2 girls: Dawn Marie and Heather Lynn. They are living on a farm in Elk Point but he does not farm.



25th Anniversary in 1971. Louis-Aimé and Rose Tremblay. Standing: Remi Tremblay, Carol Hutton, now Remi's wife, Lorraine (Tremblay) and her husband Lucien Leroux.

NAPOLÉON TREMBLAY

by Delphine Jodoin and Therese Tremblay

Napoléon, son of Aime Tremblay and Marie Fontaine was born on July 9, 1914. He attended



Mr. and Mrs. Napoléon Tremblay on their wedding.

Cartier School only until he was fifteen, because he had to help on the farm.

At twenty-two, he met and courted Gertrude Lafrance, especially at church socials and at bingos. Many times, Napoléon had only 10¢ to spend, so the rest of the evening was spent holding hands and courting under the strict supervision of the two future mothers-in-law. After a year's courting, their wedding took place at St. Bernard's Church, Lafond on Nov. 3rd, 1937.

After a lovely dinner at Mr. Joseph Lafrance's home, the supper and reception was held in Napoléon and Gertrude's new house, built on the quarter section S.E. 28-57-10. This quarter section which Aime Tremblay bought from the Marions, was a gift to Napoléon from his father. Because of the strong opposition of the parents, there was no dancing. They told stories, jokes and played cards. The occasion seemed more in mourning than joyful because they were losing the eldest of the two families.

So work began on the farm, which had already fifteen acres under cultivation. The year following their marriage, Napoléon managed to break another fifteen acres. Their total possessions in livestock were one horse, a small pig, two cows and later a small calf saved by Napoléon and Gertrude's good care. Unfortunately the two cows died of black leg in the early spring. They borrowed four cows from Uncle Isidore Fontaine. The deal was that they

would raise the calves and give them to the uncle in the fall. They trained the cows for milking. This provided them with cream to sell, and milk and butter for their own use. They had these cows for 2½ to 3 years. They were able to save enough cream money to buy young heifers to build their herd.

As most young couples Napoléon and Gertrude started thinking of raising a family. In 1938 Napoléon was exchanging field work with his brother Antoine. While Napoléon was unharnessing his horses a mishap occurred. He got kicked in the back. Napoléon spent nine days in the hospital for surgery, but was soon home and well again. This same year, they seeded fifteen acres of mixed grain, wheat, oats and barley. They lost most of it, due to an early spring frost. All they harvested was the wheat off the fifteen acres. On October 6th Raymond, their first child was born.

In 1940, they bought their first car. It was a 1928 Chevy. Napoléon was driving his car along and looking all around admiring the fields when he finally noticed he wasn't on the road, instead of applying the clutch and brakes he was yelling "Whoa! Whoa!" The car didn't obey to the language, so they took the ditch. Gertrude was badly frightened but the car was not damaged.

On Sept. 8, 1940 they had their second child, a girl, named Marie-Claire.

In the spring of 1941 shortly after Napoléon started putting in his crops, he landed in the hospital with appendicitis. Gertrude was expecting a new comer. When Napoléon came out of the hospital, he and Gertrude bought some baby chicks and heifer calves to be raised for milk cows. At the end of July there came a big hail storm. They lost their crops and all the windows on the westside of the house. Now guess what? They had twin boys, born prematurely, who survived only a few hours.

Religion was a top priority in the family. On Holy Thursday they went for an hour of adoration as early as 3 o'clock in the morning. Every Sunday the family brought a lunch to church so they would be able to go to confession and receive communion during mass.

In 1943, they had their second son, Gerard, born February 13. This same year, Napoléon decided to go out to the bush to get some logs to saw into lumber to build himself a new barn, because the log shack with a dirt roof was no longer satisfactory. Napoléon and brother Antoine went out to Boutin Sawmill which was located north of the Beaver River. The winter was very cold and blizzardy with lots of snow. Napoléon had a good team of horses on a sleigh but couldn't make it home. He had to unload most of his lumber because of the snow-filled roads. Before Napoléon left to get the rest of his lumber, he spent a day preparing two teams of horses to pull his loaded sleigh. Going down the creek hill at the mill, he ran into problems. The rear

team of horses got tangled in the harness of the two front horses. Well Napoléon really worked to untangle this mess. The boys at the mill laughed and said "You'll never make it home with that." He was determined to make it, with his big load of lumber which was eight feet wide by four feet high. He surely was proud when he got home.

Early the next spring Napoléon and Leo-Paul Lafrance bought a McCormick tractor. With this new machine, they broke land for several years, till Napoléon had approximately 120 acres under cultivation.

In October, 1943, due to the serious illness of Antoine's wife, Yvette Tremblay, sister-in-law to Napoléon and Gertrude, the young couple took over the raising of Antoine and Yvette's eldest daughter Solange, who was then two years old. She lived with them until she was married.

In November 1943, Gertrude took sick. She was sent to General Hospital in Edmonton, where she received a blood transfusion from Mr. Gibeau of Morinville. In the space of twenty-eight days she received two more blood transfusions. This was from her father, Joe Lafrance. Then she was sent home. Three weeks later she was back in the hospital again. Her father donated more blood. In those days, they had to pay for blood transfusions, or provide donors. She was lucky and received her blood from two generous people. For Napoléon, to be able to visit Gertrude during her illness, he had to sell his one heifer which was in calf. He got about \$80.00 from this sale. Napoléon took the train to Edmonton and stayed at the Cecil Hotel where he ate only one meal a day, so that his \$80.00 could stretch a little further.

The following year they bought a black jeep. It served as a tractor and as a car.

The three older children attended Cartier School which was a mile from their home. Napoléon trained his dog Rover, to pull a sleigh. Rover took Marie-Claire, Solange and Raymond to school. Once they arrived at school, Raymond had to keep the dog in the barn, because if he was left outside, he would return home. When the dog did return home without children, Napoléon would pull his ears and send him back to get them.

As the boys grew older, their favorite pastime was to hitch a horse to an old car hood, which served as a sleigh, and ride around the farmyard and the fields. Napoleon also made them skis out of 1" x 4" boards, heated to curve the ends. These worked very well. When the boys began to play hockey, Gertrude made them padded hockey pants, sweaters and toques. Solange and Marie-Claire played with a piece of split wood on which Gertrude painted a face. The doll blankets were old baby diapers.

Their third son, Hector, was born October 27, 1945.

In 1947 they purchased a Massey 44 Farmall Tractor and also bought a quarter section of land S.W. 31-57-10-4 from Alphonse Fontaine, near the reserve. The same year Napoléon broke 45 acres of land on that quarter.

Napoléon was working with a pump jack engine and it exploded in his garage. He fought the fire, and burned both his hands very badly. He was hospitalized for several days. He couldn't work much that winter. Gertrude who was expecting, had to do the chores, with her small children. They milked cows and melted snow to have soft water for washing.

Napoléon's first combine was an Allis Chalmers. In 1952 he traded it for a McCormick pull-type combine with a motor on it. The following year, he bought a Massey 44 Deisel. Due to poor crops in 1953, Napoléon and Raymond, their eldest son, had to go out to High Prairie to work in a sawmill. The winter was very hard, with lots of snow. Gertrude and the boys were left doing chores. Gertrude spent her spare time, that winter, ripping out old clothes and remaking them for her children, usually using the wrong side of the goods, for this was like new in many garments.

Their fourth son Antoine was born on July 10th, 1948. Then a year later, Eugene, was born November 29, 1949 and last but not least Adele was born May 12, 1952. Napoléon and Gertrude got power on their farm in 1952.

Gertrude and Gerard froze their hands trying to start the car. Napoléon's mother was operated for cataracts and Gertrude kept her father-in-law during his wife's stay at the hospital. All this happened when Gertrude was alone with the children.



The Napoléon Tremblay's Family: Front: Gertrude, Napoléon. Middle: Solange, Marie-Claire, Hector, Adele. Back row: Antoine, Gerard, Eugene, Raymond.



Napoléon and Gertrude Tremblay with their 8 children and 24 grandchildren taken on their 40th wedding anniversary, Nov. 12, 1977.

In the winter of 1954-55 Solange, Antoine and Marie-Claire each spent some time in the hospital. In early March, 1955, Aimé Tremblay, Napoléon's father, took sick, was hospitalized and passed away shortly afterwards.

Napoléon bought a cat and plow from Joe Lafrance in 1959. This cat was purchased to do custom work in the surrounding areas.

In 1960, Napoléon bought a half section from Armand Gill, one quarter from Marcel Bergeron and one quarter from Eugene Lafortune. In all, now, Napoléon had six quarters. The reason he bought this land was to try to establish his sons on farms.

In the winter of 1964 and 65 Napoléon borrowed a sawmill from Brosseau brothers in St. Vincent. He kept his sons busy sawing lumber at Henry Robinson's swamp. Gerard, Hector, Antoine and Eugene sawed lumber on a share basis. In 1965 they bought a sawmill and rebuilt it. The following winter they went up North of the Beaver River to make lumber. The mill was sold two years later.

Mrs. Tremblay fondly remembers having a big Christmas supper every year that they were on the farm, that is from 1937 to 1970 inclusively. All the grandfathers, grandmothers, uncles, aunts and cousins from the Tremblay and Lafrance families gathered to celebrate Christmas together. Times may have been hard at times, the supper sometimes may not have been classified as a banquet but it was lovingly prepared and served, and everyone had a wonderful time.

From 1971 to 1980, Mr. and Mrs. Tremblay lived in a smaller house in St. Paul and felt that they could not accommodate large crowds. Now they have moved to a larger home. On January 1st, 1981, Mr. and Mrs. Tremblay had an all-day open house, receiving fifty-five guests for dinner and twenty-six for supper. They hope to continue this custom as long as their health will permit.

Now let's go back a few years and see what happened to Napoléon and Gertrude's Family.

Solange married Edward Noel on July 9, 1958. They have seven children. They are Bernadette born, Dec. 18, 1959, Marguerite born July 25, 1961, Joanne born Sept. 11, 1962, Monique born July 2, 1964, Francine born April 26, 1967, Bridget born Aug. 25, 1971 and their only son Antoine born Jan. 24, 1974. Solange and Edward now have a daughter — Marguerite married to Robert Dargis. Robert and Marguerite have one son called Eric.

Maire-Claire married Laurent Brousseau on July 9, 1960 in an outdoor celebration at the Eucharistic Congress held in St. Paul in the summer of 1960. They have four children: Laurianne, born Sept. 4, 1961; Sylvie, born March 19, 1963, Julie, born June 26, 1964 and Yvon, born Dec. 29, 1966.

The eldest Raymond married Annette Langevin in St. Vincent Church, Aug. 19, 1961. They have two sons: Gaetan, born June 1st, 1962 and Marc born February 10, 1966. Michel was stillborn.

Hector married Jacqueline Langevin at St. Vincent Church on Oct. 27, 1966. They had three children: Luc, born on Sept. 6, 1967; Suzanne born on April 16, 1969; and Rachel born on Jan. 9, 1975.

Gerard married Gertrude Gagné on Jan. 14, 1967 in the church of Goodridge, Alberta. They have four children: Gerald, born Oct. 1st, 1967; Nicole, born Jan. 17, 1970; Roxanne, born on May the 9th, 1972 and Joseph, born on May 23rd, 1980.

Antoine married Thérèse Gagné in the church at Goodridge, Alberta Dec. 26, 1968. Their children are Jean-Guy, born on June 25, 1969. Rosanne, born on July 25, 1971, Carole, born on Oct. 30, 1974 and Cheryl born March 29, 1976.

Eugene married Antoinette Malo in St. Lina's Church June 9, 1973.

Adele Dianne married Jocelyn René Dallaire, in the Cathedral of St. Paul, on Dec. 7, 1974. Their children are Renée Michelle, born on May 18, 1976 and Roger Serge, born on Nov. 22, 1979.

In 1971, Napoléon had an aneurysm of the brain. After the operation he remained paralysed and unable to talk for some time. Since he couldn't work anymore, he sold a quarter section to his second oldest son, Gerard, and retired in St. Paul. When Napoléon and Gertrude left the farm, they bought a house in St. Paul which had been Joe Lafrance's first house in town. It is located on 4806-45 Avenue. In April of 1980, Gertrude's father, Mr. Joe Lafrance passed away. Napoléon and Gertrude decided to buy her father's house since it is much closer to the church and the stores. Napoléon and Gertrude now live in Joe Lafrance's second town house on 4705-49 Avenue.

PAUL TREMBLAY "THE OLD DAYS"

by Paul Eugene Tremblay

I was born Jan. 15, 1911, the son of a man who homesteaded in Lafond in 1909, on land described

as follows: S.E. 32-57-10. My dad's name was Eucharise Tremblay, better known as Carise Tremblay. My dad was born in Baie Saint Paul, August 5, 1870. He was brought up in a small community called Saint Urban, close to Baie Saint Paul, a busy bay on the St. Lawrence River. When I drove by the place about twelve years ago, we stopped at a tourist information center where they advertised the district with a sign that read "Painter's Paradise." Dad left home when he was twelve or thirteen years of age after his parents died, and he went to live with an uncle. There he worked for six weeks, walking behind a section of harrow pulled by one horse. For this work he was paid fifty cents a day. Then he travelled here and there, working in mines and lumber camps. He worked for twenty years in the States where they called him Joe. He ended up with a business ferrying people and goods across a bay on Lake Superior between the two cities of Duluth, Minn. and Superior, Wis.

In the winter he had some leisure time and went to Roberval, a town a couple hundred miles north of Quebec City on a big lake called Lac St. Jean. There he met Arthemise Lavoie, the eighteen-year-old daughter of Pascal Lavoie, who was born on April 10, 1888 in Roberval, Quebec. They were married on February 5, 1906. After a few years of married life he gave up his boating business to come out West, attracted by the news that you could get 160 acres of land practically free, just for the plowing of 15 acres, fencing it and building a suitable shelter — a house or log cabin.

I will go as far back as I can remember, and recall a log shack or cabin of shiny peeled logs which was built by a man who homesteaded across the road from where I was born and raised. His name is Gagnon, I don't recall having ever seen him, for he abandoned his homestead early. My dad sent for his brother Joseph Tremblay, to come and file this homestead. This is where I am living today, on an 80-acre piece of the old homestead which I bought, and on which I built a house three years ago, not far from where Uncle Joseph built a small shack in which he lived for three years to prove the homestead.

A homestead had to be proven by breaking and plowing fifteen acres of it, fencing it and building a suitable dwelling place.

I still remember clearly when we kids used to go and see him. He always had a Scotch mint to give to each one of us. I was seven years old when he went back East to Quebec, I also remember him helping my dad make a rail fence for the pig pasture. I recall these experiences because I thought people grew shorter as they got older. Uncle Joseph was older and shorter than my dad.

Young kids of four to six years old are not yet accustomed to natural ways of life, as may be seen by another experience.

On a Sunday afternoon we went to visit another homesteader by the name of Vandal who lived on the outskirts of the Saddle Lake Indian Reserve. We had to cross a piece of freshly broken virgin prairie, and it was very rough going riding across it in a wagon. The plowing had been done with a narrow plow, and I remarked to my folks that it was only natural for the furrows to be narrow since the man himself who plowed it (Louis Gagnon) had a small narrow face.

It was the first time I was at the Vandal's. I marvelled at the music-playing machine, a disc playing gramophone. I thought there had to be an orchestra in the box of the gramophone itself, and I could see in my mind all those little men playing music. I had seen and heard an orchestra playing before, at the "St. John the Baptist" yearly celebration in St. Paul. I was born with a mechanical talent, and I wanted so much to understand how a little machine could play music that I wished the people would go out of the house so I could take this machine apart and see for myself how it worked.

There was a young man living with the Vandals whom we called Joe Vandal. During conscription at the end of the First World War, some young men hid and lived isolated from the public to avoid being conscripted or forced into the army against their wishes. Joe Vandal was one of them. He was staying at the Vandal's, and whenever visitors came he would run and hide. The Vandal house was close to the Saddle Lake Indian Reserve, and as he was working for the Vandal's whenever he could, he was seen once by some Indians when he was running away to hide in the bush. The Indians asked Mr. Vandal what was wrong with the man. He replied that he was just a little queer because he was slightly mentally retarded and took running fits now and then. Once Joe Vandal told my oldest sister Blanche that she came so close to him on her way to get the milking cows that he could have touched her. He says he was really scared of being discovered.

I was born in a three-room log shack or cabin with a sod roof. The roof was made by first placing a layer of slabs, then straw on the slabs, and then turf. Those who could afford it or obtain it would put tar paper over the slabs.

The turf was made by first plowing around a slough or around level and soft ground, and then the upturned soil was cut with an axe crosswise, which made pieces one foot wide and one foot long and about five inches thick. The pieces made nice "sod bricks" to handle.

A sod roof had it all over a frame or wooden roof, because the heat was kept from escaping through the roof. These types of roof coupled with plastered logs made dwellings warm to live in during winter. However, the three-day rains we had in those days would finally cause the roof to leak.



Mr. Euchariste Tremblay (father of 5 sons: Thomas, Paul, Rene, Henri, Albert and 3 daughters: Blanche, Rose, Cecile) is standing in the foreground. In the righthand boat stands Joe Loche who homesteaded the quarter-section, across the road, west of Mrs. Blanche Parkinson's home. These men were ferrying people across a bay of Lake Superior, between Duluth and Superior, before coming out west to take homestead.

About the first thing I can recall when I was very young (probably $4\frac{1}{2}$ years old) was watching Le Cure Villeneuve, a tall priest in a black robe walking back and forth in the yard. That was on my memory when I was so young, no doubt because of the unconventional way of dressing in a black robe. He was an uncle of my mother's, and he said he came out West to make sure his niece was doing all right in this God-forsaken, wild uncivilized Indian Country — at least that's what they thought the situation was out here.

Another remarkable and unusual thing which I remember was the time when it got so dark at about 3:00 o'clock in the afternoon that we had to light the lamps. We could see some huge rolling clouds of smoke in the sky. I was filling a tub with chips for kindling, when my mother hollered at me to leave everything and come inside the house. The wood chips were made when the logs for building the house were squared with a broad axe by Mr. Joseph Laflamme, one of the nicest men I have known. He would make me a toy boat with just an ordinary axe

and a piece of scrap wood. We kids loved him. He was tall, big and strong, a real bush man, with a strong, clear voice.

I know of only two daughters of Joseph Laflamme: Eugenie and Josephine. They worked at home babysitting us kids. Eugenie married Donat Noel and Josephine married Adolphe Labrecque. I thought Josephine looked so cute. Philip, I think, was his only son. He looked cute to me too, and I liked him and hoped he would marry my oldest sister Blanche someday, but instead he went and homesteaded at Meadow Lake and shattered my young dreams.

I was twelve years old when they built the house and I helped for one day to shingle it. I would hold the shingle nails in my mouth.

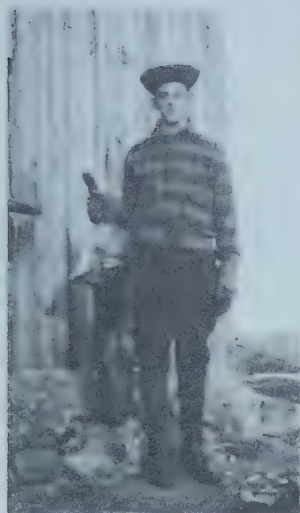
I like to make things with wood. I thought some day I would become a carpenter. Twelve years old in those days was the age to be a man. I pitched hay when I was ten years old, helping at haymaking during the school holidays. My sister Blanche was driving a team of horses, mowing hay with the

famous Frost & Wood horse mower, when she was only eight years old. She took dad's place when he hurt his back.

I was cutting small trees with a special small axe when I was twelve years old. We called this brushing. I can see the place from the window of my house as I write. I was not satisfied with the amount of work I did in a day, because I didn't cut as much as an adult would.

I loved to make things with carpenter's tools, and I'm still glad my dad let us kids use his tools. He brought back a good set of tools from the States.

We used to make bicycles, sleds to slide down the two hills we had close to the house. They were made out of two blocks of firewood and two barrel staves. The front block was swivelled on a nail and two large nails were the handle bars. When we were teenagers and bought a bicycle we already knew how to balance ourselves on a bicycle. On my first ride I pedalled one-half mile.



A surprised trapper — Paul Tremblay got a red fox when he only expected a coyote.

My brother Thomas could make anything he wanted to, and did it well. He made the nicest bobsleds to slide down the hill. They were light and easy to carry back uphill, on our shoulders. He made a small binder with a turning reel, and we were pulling it in the pig pen one day when Donat Noel was coming back from town. He was standing on the seat of his democrat so he could see us. Later when he met my dad, he asked him where he had bought that toy binder. It didn't cost any money to have fun in those days when we were kids. Thomas made many other things, from a cardboard model of a car to a snow plow. Nothing ever stopped him. He must have had what he wanted to do very clear in his mind, because he would never make a mistake. Everything was always well done the first time — not like me, who learned to do things well by learning from my mistakes. Sometimes I do things every possible wrong way before I find the right way to do it.

Thomas's hobby was drawing. When I was six years of age and he was seven, we saw a flock of geese fly by one spring. Thomas ran into the house, took a pencil and a piece of paper, and drew those geese in "V" formation, from that time on, he was forever drawing. His specialty was drawing cars and steam tractors. I have a drawing here of Mr. Eugene Lamoureux's Sawyer-Massey tractor and thresher with the threshing crew all working including a truck loading grain.

Thomas never looked at anything when he was drawing. There are a lot of things to draw on a thresher, yet everything is there on his drawings — every kicker and every pulley.

In his later years he was drawing farm machinery and colouring his drawings with wax crayons. He also made flower designs, coloured with wax crayons, that were beautiful to see. I could never do anything with wax crayons — with me it has to be oil paints.

We spent a lot of time enjoying ourselves playing in a sand hill on the side of the road. We would make toy cars with two empty thread spools and a piece of barbed wire. We would make roads for our little cars with our hands by tapping the sand on the side of the sand bank. That was along the main road between St. Paul and Vegreville where wagons, buggies and Model T's would go by.

Once we saw the car of cars go by and as luck would have it, for whatever reason, it stopped in the road close to where we were playing. It was an old car of the model that is geared by a chain drive on the side of the car, and the man cranked it on the side near the chain drive to start it. We loved cars, but that was the car we liked to see the most, and we never forgot that remarkable experience. When we saw our first car with the top on, we ran to the house and cried! Auto cage, auto cage! — caged auto!

The only time I saw a team of oxen was when a Mr. Chauquette from Montreal camped at our place. While driving down from Vegreville, one ox had an accident and broke a leg. At six o'clock the next morning, I was awakened by a loud rifle shot. They shot the ox. That was a shot of mercy. They saved the meat, and the next morning the coyotes were feeding on what was left of the carcass.

I was seven years old, going on eight, when the First World War ended. We got the news from a man shouting from a passing car. "La guerre est finie!"

After the war followed an epidemic of influenza called "The Spanish Flu". Many people died of it. Some would fall into an unconscious state like suspended animation, and were buried alive, by people who thought they were dead. It was discovered after a while that the best cure for the flu was to warm up the patient and make him perspire. The flu was no doubt a contagious disease carried by a virus travelling through the air, because some people

living alone in the bush would get the disease. Arthur Doucet, who was living alone in a shack in the bush, was later found dead from the flu.

We were lucky to escape the flu of 1919, but we got it the next year. The saying went, "if you didn't get it the first year, you got it the next year."

I was sleeping with brother Thomas who was one year older than I was, and we both woke up one morning with a severe headache and were too weak to get up. This was how the flu hit. After missing school for one week we were back on our feet again. Old Doctor Gagnon was called, and he gave us one small pill to take. It is peculiar with me that the only time I remember ever having a headache was when I was sick from the Spanish flu, could it be that my head is bigger than my brain or my brain small enough it doesn't press on some nerve inside the skull? Let's say it's my brain that is small and not my head too big; that will please more people, and I like to please people! That winter the school closed because of the flu (1919).

Logan, the cattle buyer, camped at our home overnight with 312 head of cattle he was driving to Vegreville, the closest railroad. He bought a load of hay from dad to feed his herd. The next morning I went to watch the cattle walk through a gate one by one to be counted. That morning it was 60° below zero. This was just like the cattle drives you see on T.V. on Western shows. The cattle were bought and rounded up starting as far as Cold Lake district, and driven to Vegreville to the closest railroad over a hundred miles away the same as the cattle drives of the old days.

Our place was called a stopping place, where travellers would stop for shelter for themselves, and feed and shelter for their horses. To refuse anyone shelter for themselves or their horses was unthinkable in those days. Some of these strangers had talents. Some would sing, others would play the mouth organ. We did not even own a gramophone. We kids sure enjoyed the music and singing that some of the passers-by entertained us with. We also enjoyed our neighbour Donat Doucet's Edison gramophone that played with rollers instead of disc records as the newer types did.

I recall that once across from Donat Doucet's house, a Model T was stuck in a mud hole and the man was clutching back and forth attempting to drive through the mud hole. I couldn't understand why he didn't push on his steering wheel. He would be out of the mud hole in no time, or so I thought. I suppose a kid of 4 or 5 years old accustomed to physical laws reasons so.

Until the railroad came to St. Paul, my dad used to freight between St. Paul and Vegreville, hauling groceries for the stores with a wagon and a team of horses to earn groceries for the family. It was at least a four-day trip. In the winter it was hard and cold. During 60° below weather, the harness would

freeze so hard it could not be taken off the horse's back. We had to wait hours for the harnesses to thaw after the horses were put in the barn in the evening.

One winter a pack of dogs would gather at night and run down farmers' horses. Farmers all had their horses loose in the fields, fending for themselves in the winter, except a team or so that was needed for travelling and hauling hay and logs for firewood. Horses are like moose. They paw through the snow to get at the grass beneath. They can even live all winter without drinking. Farmers could not have lived without horses in the old days.

These dogs were all tame dogs except the leader. He was known as "bob tail" because he had a short tail. Since we had seen him several times around our buildings, my dad borrowed a shotgun and waited his chance. I was alone with my dad in the cabin one day when we saw the dog walk through the yard. There was a sliding window at one end of the cabin in the bedroom and when my dad opened the window to shoot at the dog, the dog heard the noise and stopped and turned his head toward the opposite direction, I heard a terrific bang the dog fell dead with a big hole through his body. That was the end of the dog pack problem: the leader was dead.

After Uncle Joseph left for the East, we would use his shack as a playhouse. There was a woodpecker's nest in a tree behind the shack. We kept taking the eggs away from her, and she kept on laying eggs. They will lay eggs until there are eight eggs in the nest before they "set" them. My sister Blanche would make a small hole with a pin or needle at each end of the eggs, blow the contents out, and make herself a necklace of blue eggs. We quit robbing the flicker's nest in the summer and the young were just able to fly south when the first snow was on the ground.

Brother Thomas and I loved woodpeckers, especially their red caps. We would imitate their three types of song.



The Euchariste Tremblay family — Front row: Rene, Blanche, Henri, Albert, Cecile. Back row: Paul, Mr. and Mrs. Tremblay, Rose, Thomas.

How about the weather in those days? We had 60 below more often than we have now. The coldest I have ever seen was 69° below. Apparently it lasted only a few hours. I went out at about ten o'clock one evening and I could hear a "psst" every time I exhaled and finally made up my mind it was the moisture of my breath that was freezing.

I recall having read a story written by Jack London who described the extreme cold in Northern Canada, and he said that at 70° below when you spat, the spittle would freeze before it touched the snow. I spat on the ground and to my surprise the spittle was frozen by the time it hit the snow.

During the last war it was very cold one winter. The cold lasted two days short of two months — forty to fifty below at night and the warmest at noon in the sun was thirty below.

One winter there was no snow at Christmas and we were all ready to go to midnight mass when there was a loud clap of thunder and it started raining. The horses were already harnessed to the democrat (two-seated buggy), and we missed going to church because of the rain. I didn't like to miss midnight mass because I enjoyed so much hearing the singing of the opening hymn "Holy Night" in French by Mr. Emile Malo. He had such a beautiful, and powerful voice, one of the nicest voices I have ever heard. Every year before Christmas some would start a story that he wouldn't be able to sing "Minuit Chretien" because he was bothered by asthma, but he was there to sing that one hymn again.

Ducks were plentiful in those days. Wild game was also more available. Ever hear about all-game pie? The famous French Canadian all-game pie is called "tourquiere". It is a deep pie cooked in a cast iron pot and is made with several layers of meat, crust and potatoes cut into small cubes. It was made with many kinds of wild meat — ducks, chicken, partridges (grouse) prairie chicken and snowshoe rabbit. It was important to have at least one wild rabbit in the pie. Once the rabbits were scarce, I had to hunt three days before I could get one rabbit. My mother always insisted on having one rabbit in the pie. Another must was to have a piece of salt pork in it. No meat pie on earth is as tasty and delicious as an all-game pie.

Myself and a brother were the two of the family who would supply the family with wild meat in the fall. Besides a good 22 rifle, we had a gun with a 36 inch barrel called a long range or goose gun. We used a light loaded shell in this gun called "export shells". In that long barrel shot gun the shells would scatter, yet hit hard enough to cripple or kill ducks. It was not economical to shoot only one duck at a time, and when you have a whole family to supply with meat, you have to be careful to make the shots count and get as many ducks as possible with each shot.

It was a calm, nice afternoon as we were unloading a wagon full of potatoes in the basement, a flock of ducks was seen flying over a big stook field a mile away. They cause a lot of damage to a wheat field in very little time, so I was sent with the gun and three shells to scare them away. When I got there, I found them all in a small round slough surrounded by willows and hay, taking a fresh drink after a good meal of wheat. I had everything going my way. The wind was blowing strong enough to cover any noise I made, and I had brush and hay to hide in. The noise that the quacking of the ducks made helped too.

Since my brother had shot quite a few ducks with one shot the day before, I was sure I could do as well, so I took my shoes off and rolled up my pants to wade into the water right away to catch the crippled ones. I aimed at one spot between the trees, but I thought there were more ducks on the left, so I swung my gun that way and in a kneeling posture I pulled the trigger. There were so many ducks left in the water, dead and crippled, that I thought they had not all flown away so I reloaded my gun and then realized they were all hit.

I ran into the water, first on the far side of the slough where I picked up the wounded ones first, and piled up the ducks and hid them in the bush. I counted 22, and was disappointed because I thought there would be at least fifty!

After I got home, the problem was to convince my folks to harness the horses on the democrat and go and get the ducks.

I asked my brother as soon as I entered the house how many shells were left in the box, since he was the one who hunted last. "Three shells", he said. Then I showed them the one empty shell as proof that I had shot only once. I still have the empty shell which I keep for a souvenir. I also showed him the two loaded shells.

When I was about eight years old I watched two neighbors, Mr. Olivier Doucet and Louis Moreau walk back and forth across the yard, looking for a place to dig a well. Each one was holding a forked willow in his hands. When the willow fork turned in their hands it was supposed to indicate an underground spring not far below the surface of the ground. They criss-crossed one another and finally settled on a certain spot. This is where they dug a 4 x 4 foot hole and got plenty of water at 18 feet, water coming out of the gravel. One evening after his day's work the well digger bored a small hole with a brace and bit, and water came out from that small hole. He whittled a peg with his pocket knife and plugged it up. He then knew that the next day there would be water. This well supplied at least 40 head of cattle and horses.

We had a large blue metal cup hanging by the wooden pump, with which the passers-by drank

ice-cold water in the summer. Many stopped to water their horses also.

Many farmers from the South were dried out and ruined from soil drifting, and they would go by with their belongings in covered wagons. One man who camped at our home with his family had a sign on the side of his wagon that read. "Dried Out, Blowed Out, Sold Out, Kicked Out!"

In our homestead cabin there was a homemade wooden sink in the north side of the kitchen. It was like an inclined box about 30 inches by 4 feet set at such an angle that the water would run out through a hole in the wall. In the winter this hole would freeze up, and some hot water poured into the sink would unplug it.

I was six years old when I came running out of the bedroom and hit the dipper of hot water. It spilled over my neck and chest. I was crying with pain, and my mother caught up with me in the bedroom and peeled my undershirt up over my head. It was made of wool which acted as a sponge to hold the hot water against my neck and chest. Some of the skin came off with it. Since I had been holding my fingers against my chest, even they were burnt. I suffered all afternoon and I must have been in some sort of agony because things looked distorted as I lay on the bed — what a relief it would have been to have an injection of morphine.

They put grease on my burns which is one of the worst things to do. What did the most good to my burns when they were healing was when my mother was painting "wolf oil" on my chest with a feather. This felt very soothing. The Vandals gave me an old-time chess game so I could amuse myself while my burns were healing.

Today people get killed in car accidents. I don't remember anyone getting killed in horse accidents in our district, but many were hurt, sometimes by runaway horses. One man from Brosseau district was in hospital in St. Paul recovering from broken bones. He had tried to stop runaway horses by standing in front of four horses pulling a seed drill, and he was run over.

One man was kicked in the forehead by a horse, and woke up in the hospital asking where he was and what had happened to him.

I was coming back from church with my oldest sister Blanche, riding on the wagon seat, when the neckyoke came off and the horses started running away. The tongue finally caught in the ground and the wagon flew into the air. I fell off the seat onto the bottom of the wagon box floor and my head hurt. I saw Blanche fly by me, followed by the wagon seat. She hurt her legs.

A few homesteader's houses burned in the old days. No lives were ever lost, but it must have created a hardship. People would help them by donating clothes and many other things, and by

raising funds and helping them build another house.

The Joseph Henley's house burned down twice, once the cause was an overheated airtight. This was a light, sheet metal stove that would throw a lot of heat, but these stoves were dangerous. If they were loaded with too much wood, the lid or cover would fly off to the ceiling. Today they are still sold but the lid is hinged. Yet I have seen one with the hinged lid lift up and down from the compression of the heat, and make a noise like a steam tractor.

I went to school eight years with a horse and buggy. The horse was a medium-sized horse of the cayuse type, and his name was Pete. Old faithful Pete pulled us to school for eight years. The buggy we rode to school in was called a "buckboard". The one seat was on springs but the seat and springs were fastened to a flat board bolted directly onto the front and rear axles. My sisters rode on the seat while we boys sat or stood behind the seat. It was rough riding 2½ miles to school. You can see a buckboard buggy often in Western movies.

In the winter time we rode to school in a homemade sled called a cutter. The year of the deep snow (1919), in the spring, we had to cut across a field, and there was a creek filled with snow so deep that to cross it we had to unharness the horse and pull the cutter across the creek by hand.

My oldest sister Blanche could outrun any person in the district. After school once she was playing tag with Emile Leroux, the oldest boy at school, and since he knew he couldn't outrun her, he let himself fall to the ground and she tumbled over him. All the kids had a good laugh over that one.

One certain homesteader would go to town to sell his cream about once a week. He would come back drunk, holding the horses' lines loosely, himself drooping on the seat of his democrat and his horses trotting at a high speed. This made quite an impression on me. I promised myself I would never drink. I had my first drink of beer at a bar in St. Paul when I was twenty-eight years old.

Another time I saw a man so drunk he fell off his wagon seat but didn't get hurt. No wonder people say there is a God that protects the drunkards.

Jules and John Laboucane did some brushing on my uncle's homestead. I once saw Jules kill a rabbit for his lunch by throwing his opened pocket knife at it. Those two would have had no trouble at all surviving in the wilds, provided with just two things: a pocket knife and some matches.

Once when we were butchering a pig between Christmas and New Year's, I saw a crow fly south. It was a crow and not a raven, because she cawed while flying overhead.

When brother Rene was about four years old, myself five, and brother Thomas six, we drank my mother's tonic which we had found on a small table

with a small medicine glass beside the bottle. It was the small glass that fascinated me. I woke up vomiting over the slop pail. Thomas had it easier since he was older, but Rene was very sick and nearly died. Mrs. Laframboise gave us some herb medicine, and Mother gave her credit for saving our lives.

She was a French half-breed, and was a great asset to the community during those hard home-steading days. She was acting as midwife before doctors came to the area, and would treat sick people with herb medicine. She would also sing solos at Church. She had a golden voice, as I recall it today.

There were some heavy thunderstorms in those days. Once during a thunderstorm, my mother was holding my youngest sister in her arms, a baby 2½ months old, holding her close to the opened oven of the "Majestic" cook stove to keep her warm. "Come and gather around me", she said "She's gonna open her eyes". We crowded around Mom to watch, and I was the only one leaning against the stove when the lightning struck the barbed wire fence about a hundred feet from the cabin. I remember a blinding flash, and my head hurting from the shock. I ran into the bedroom hollering and crying. When I came to, my left arm was numb, and I thought it was burned. All this time my brothers and sisters were laughing and thought it was very funny. I remember sitting on a chair for a while until the shock of it all was over and I felt normal again.

Jules Laboucane's house was struck by lightning when he lived in Lafond. His wife was lying in bed with a baby beside her, and she was instantly killed. Her body, they say, was burnt. The baby was thrown to the foot of the bed unhurt.

During a thunderstorm the neighbors saw a ball of fire come rolling off the box stove. It exploded with a crash, and a two year old boy was knocked down but he was unhurt.

I often wonder what is the most beautiful thing to see in nature. There are many beautiful flowers out West. My favorite one was the golden slipper. They are almost extinct in these parts. Next was the shooting star. Then there is the wild tiger lily.

I once found a large moth while I was cutting some willows. To me that is the most beautiful living thing on earth. It is called the cecropia moth.

Oh yes, I almost forgot. A pretty girl with shapely curves is quite a sight too. At least, it is to us men. I wonder if women think the same of us men. It's one of those mysteries of life, what we men call women's secrets.

We had a woman teacher at school by the name of Leblanc. She had a tough face as I recall, and was forever using the correction strap. The strap was a piece of belt one-quarter inch thick and three inches wide and about twenty inches long. For the bigger punishments she would have the kids hold the

fingers of one hand close together, hand face up and beat the fingers about ten strokes of the strap depending on how she felt. Sometimes she would do it to both hands. Try it for yourself and see if that is not torture.

She found all kinds of excuses to use the strap. Brother Thomas dropped the lid of his pencil box on the floor accidentally. Since her rule was compete silence and the lid made a little noise when it fell, for this he got the strap.

Thomas and myself were always together like twins, having only a year difference in age. When one of us was punished, the other was hurt. The priest called us his two disciples, St. Paul and St. Thomas.

We finally plotted to steal the teacher's strap. Thomas being one year older than myself was more daring than I was, so he and another boy, Urgel Leroux, were to hide after school until all the kids were gone, and then crawl through a broken window pane and get the strap. They did just that, while I waited a quarter mile away where they joined me. We hid the strap there in a culvert.

When we got home, we told our parents what we had done. My dad said that was not right. He sent us to school at 6 o'clock the next morning to take the strap back.

One girl overheard us plan to hide the strap, and told the teacher the next morning. She accused Thomas of taking her strap. He told her that her strap was in the drawer of her desk, and she wouldn't believe it. Finally she opened the drawer to give Thomas his well-deserved punishment, and you should have seen her face! I think it was all worth it, stealing her punishment strap and taking it back. This was all done so secretly that I doubt if any of the other school kids ever found out.

In those days during the recess, the girls played on their own side of the school and the boys on their side. It was against regulations for a girl or a boy to cross over to the other side. The girls and the boys were not allowed to play together, at least not in the first few years I went to school.

One day the girls' ball went rolling over to the boys' side. Now how was that ball to be retrieved? If a girl went after the ball to fetch it back, she would be trespassing on the boys' side, and vice versa. Thomas picked up the ball and threw it back to the girls' side. Is this not the logical thing to do? Does that deserve punishment? One girl told the teacher, and Thomas got the strap.

After he came out of school, we both felt a lump in our hearts for having him punished undeservedly. This was not the way we were raised. After being both silent for a while Thomas said, "Let's go home!" We both ran away from school towards home.

As we were two and one-half miles from school, that was a long run. One farmer on his way from

town happened to pass by a few minutes later, and the teacher got a ride in the buggy. They all caught up to us three-quarters of a mile from school. The teacher told us to jump on behind the buggy, and promised she wouldn't punish us. We both got aboard but after the buggy was turned around Thomas jumped off and ran away. I was younger and more timid, and stuck to the buggy. By the time the buggy turned around again and caught up with Thomas, he had gained another half mile. The teacher jumped off the buggy to grab him, but he cut across the field which was a pasture. Both were running at top speed until there was another fence to cross and fresh breaking. When the teacher reached the breaking (fresh plowing) she couldn't run anymore. Her high heels and the style of dress she was wearing, narrow at the bottom, prevented her from running. Each time she tried to make a few steps she fell.

My future brother-in-law, William Parkinson, a returned soldier of the First World War, witnessed it all. He was plowing virgin prairie with a one-furrow walking plow, and said later he saw the best show he had ever seen.

After Thomas reached home, my mother took him back to school and warned the teacher not to punish him. After school she gave him the strap, ten strokes on each hand with the fingers tightly together sticking up.

On her way home my mother reported to the president of the school board, Mr. Brabant, and that evening there was a meeting of the board. They voted to fire the teacher. I have never heard of her since.

The Brabants were a very nice family. Mr. Brabant was a very just man. His youngest son Jules came to our school for many years. He was mayor of St. Paul for a long time.

Our school district was called Doucet School District, called so after Joseph Doucet, one of the first homesteaders, who lived next to the school. His oldest daughter Blanche was always at the head of her class. She was so quick to learn. One day when the teacher was sick she taught school all day.

During the noon hour in the spring we would drown gophers by pouring water down their holes. When they came out, we would hit them over the head with a stick.

One spring we had our pastime during recess sliding over a patch of ice. One boy called Marvin was sliding ahead of us, and one girl, Cecile Lafrance, would say, "Clear the road, Marvin!" She was dreaming one night and her sister heard her talking in her sleep saying, "Clear the road, Marvin!" After this incident the poor girl was called "Clear the road, Marvin."

Almanzor Gill and Emile Leroux were the two oldest boys when I started going to school. The winters were cold, and the school was heated by a

large box stove sitting right in the middle of the school. Emile and Manzor as we called him were the ones who were carrying the firewood into the school. The teacher would send them out at any time during class to get an armful of wood. They didn't like that, so one day when the teacher had gone for lunch during the noon hour (she boarded at the Joseph Doucet place close by) they carried a whole cord of wood and piled it from the back of the stove to the door. When the teacher came back after lunch, she made them carry some of it back. They kept at it until no more wood was left in the school. After this incident they refused to carry firewood into the school anymore.

Those two big boys were sitting close to a window that the teacher kept open even in cold weather. They put water underneath the window so the window would freeze closed and the teacher would not be able to open it. The next morning the teacher tried to open the window and could not, so she called upon Emile Leroux for help. He got up and said "sa prend-t-il pas une bonne a rien de maitresse pour pas pouvoir ouvrir une fenetre", (it has to be a weakling of a teacher not to be able to open a window) and with that, with his two hands he pushed the window open.

The Leroux were a big family of sixteen kids, boys and girls. People were sociable in those days, and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Leroux would visit our home in the long winter evenings and play cards. Whether they lost or won at cards was not important as the pleasant, cheerful way they played and enjoyed themselves. Both were humorous and gay, and always had some humorous way of telling the happenings of the day. Once we were attending a machinery show which was part of a machinery advertising campaign, and they were showing a machine that made some small ditches in a farmer's field to prevent erosion. There was some kind of wheel that dragged on the ground, at a certain distance the wheel made a turn which made a shoulder to block the water. Mr. Leroux called this piece of machinery "the machine with the wheel that turns once every fifteen days."

Across from the school was the Jardon's homestead. As far as I can remember about them, they left during the 1914 war to defend their homeland, and were all killed. Their house was a French type house which was torn down to build another of English type. This was done by Mr. McCovoy who bought the farm and lived on it until Mr. Didier Gamache bought the farm and built a beautiful, modern house on it.

Langevin is the name of the homesteader who first proved the farm where the first school was built. Olivier Doucet homesteaded a half mile north of the school. He farmed and trapped for a living. He stopped at our home one afternoon with a large dead coyote tied to his saddle horn.

One boy, Lucien Duhamel, came to school in the winter riding on a sled pulled by a collie dog. After he got to the school, he sent the dog back home.

Joe Doucet homesteaded the quarter section one mile south of the school. He sold out and moved later, and I was at the auction sale. When it was time to sell the cattle, he told his collie dog to "go and get the cows". After a while the dog came back without the cows. I wonder if he didn't sense that "his cows" were going to be sold. He was sent back to get them a second and this time he came back with them.

When my dad would come back from St. Paul, our dog would go to meet him always one-half mile from the house. Dad had to be one mile away when the dog left the house and started trotting down the road. I wondered how the dog knew Dad was coming when he was still a mile away.

We had a dog called "Fanny". She always had her pups in the culvert and when cars would drive by she would come out and bark at them. Many times she was run over by a car and would then look all crippled, yet after a while she would come back to normal. We could never get the pups out of the culvert because it was so small we couldn't crawl in.

Before I went to school I was writing my name on a small blackboard at home with my left hand, because I was always very much left-handed. My sister Blanche, who is four years older than myself, told me the teacher would beat me next year when I was to start school, if I didn't use my right hand. So I taught myself to write and draw with my right hand.

One afternoon after school Thomas and I decided to have a little fun. The Turmel and Gill kids were slow in starting for home after school, and they took their time with a slow walk. No wonder, they lived far from school. The Turmels two and one half miles, the Gills three miles. We ran way ahead of them, past Joe Doucet's place and hid in a bush beside the road a hundred yards from Joe Doucet's house. Aurore Gill was walking alone ahead of the others while the rest all stopped at the Doucet place as they usually did for a drink of water.

Just before Aurore came close to us we started barking, imitating coyote pups, that was quite effective because she turned back and joined the others, scared half to death. She told the others what she had heard. The whole group of girls finally decided to try to make it home anyway. Again, before they got to where we were hiding, we started yapping again. They all turned back scared, but we came out of hiding and hollered at them that there was nothing of which to be scared. The laugh of course was on them.

My mother was frying pancakes on a stove outside the house in a shelter which was used for cooking during the summer heat. We had been stealing and eating some pancakes when a school

teacher, a Mr. Muri who taught at Cartier School south from us, was just turning around the corner of the house. My mother thought it was us kids and, as she turned around and said: "get the heck away from here, you kids"! she found herself face to face with Mr. Muri. "What are you saying to me, madame?" Muri said. Then he started eating pancakes himself and said, "Mrs. Tremblay, you sure make good pancakes.

Father Lacombe founded a mission at Saddle Lake Indian Reserve in the very early days called Sacre Coeur. It burned down one dry spring, and the whole Indian reserve was on fire. Also the whole district appeared to be on fire. Whichever way you looked, west, south, north and even east — the whole sky looked as if it was on fire. There was a beautiful reflection of red in the slough across from the cabin. It was a beautiful sight which I never forgot.

Prairie fires were always a threat in those days, because of the Indian reserve and because of dry prairie wool or buffalo grass. Our homestead adjoined the east boundary of the reserve.

A man by the name of Brown travelled on horseback and camped at our place often. He had delicate hands and long hair. He had no beard and never shaved. He looked quite young. The story went that he was a girl dressed as a boy. Others said he was an escapee from prison, and that was why he would never say where he came from. But he was quite harmless, and very different from cowboys of those days. He never bothered anyone.

Another unusual character was Mr. Corbeille. He came from Montreal from apparently a well-off family. He quit college to come out West to see the wild Indians, the prairie and the cowboys who roamed the trails. As long as he had a horse to ride, he was happy. He was living across from the Lamoureux homestead with a homesteader name Louis Gagnon.

How that man could sing! It was a delight to hear him. I admired the effortless way he sang those high notes. He could imitate coyote howls, dog barks, rooster crowing and many kinds of birds. He could have had one over Rich Little. He could sing a Chinese song. He also sang a drinking song, and imitated the sound of clinking glasses and the cork popping off the bottle.

My dad hired him one winter to split firewood, and he was paid fifty cents a day. He took his time splitting wood, and I think he would have been satisfied with just his room and board. We kids enjoyed having him around just to hear him sing.

I saw my first airplane at school one day. It was flying to St. Paul. The teacher let us all go outside to see it. It was flown, I think, by the famous Canadian bush pilot, Wop May, an ace of the First World War. I also saw it fly back to Edmonton as it passed over

our home. Many people took rides in it at \$5.00 a ride. Some were air sick.

Later on in my life, still before farmers made the transition from horses to tractors, one cold winter a certain man who lived near the north shore of the North Saskatchewan River would stop at our home in the evening on his way home to warm up. My mother always made him a hot drink. After he left one evening, my youngest sister Cecile's pet fox terrier dog disappeared. We suspected he had taken the dog with him to give to his kids. About a week later between Christmas and New Year's, I happened to be looking through the window, and to my great surprise I saw the dog coming down the hill. Ice was sticking to his four feet. We wrapped him up in a blanket to warm him up. He was sick for a couple of days, and then was all right again.

The next summer my mother, Cecile and my oldest sister Blanche who lived across the road, were alone while we men were all working out in the field. My sister saw a man pick up the dog and take it away in his wagon. Blanche took the car, and all three women drove after the man. He was galloping his horses, but they soon caught up with him and he threw the dog over the wagon box. He was the same one we suspected of stealing the dog formerly. He never stopped at our home anymore after that incident.

How does a young boy spend his spare time away on the farm between the ages of seven and fifteen — the then school years of kids in a country school? Drink coke, smoke pot, gang up with other boys and burn houses down and do vandalism? No way. When neighbours are one to two miles apart, it is not easy for boys to get together during the "ganging" age. However, we found ourselves together often, mostly with our cousins and school-mates, but if any of us had done any vandalism, (which was unknown in our days) one of us would have told his parents, and the guilty ones would have had their due punishment and not dare do it again. Today, no house left abandoned is free from vandalism for long.

My chores after school were to carry water into the house and make kindling to light the stove in the morning. My dad taught me to snare rabbits, and I would attend to my snares after school. I would also trap weasels and muskrats for pin money. I caught two coyotes and one red fox. In the summertime I would run around the fields and bushes in search of birds' nests. I just loved to see their nests and admire their eggs. No nests were ever disturbed except the crows' nests. Crows were classified as one of the bad birds because they eat useful birds' eggs. One day I destroyed 33 crows' nests.

One morning Thomas found fourteen of our chickens with their heads cut off. We had forgotten to close the small trap door of the chicken coop. We

saw a great horned owl perched on one end of the machinery shed roof, and my brother shot him.

Another morning one rooster was found dead in the cow barn, with its head cut off. The next morning the same thing happened, but Thomas saw the owl in time. He plugged in the hole underneath the foundation so the owl could not get out and killed it with a stick.

After I quit school I spent a lot of my spare time shooting with a 22 rifle. In the summer I spent my spare moments shooting gophers and crows. In the fall and winter I shot game birds like ducks, partridges (ruffed grouse), prairie chickens (sharp-tailed grouse). Even now, skating, snowshoeing, and skiing are very easy for me.

One beautiful, calm Sunday afternoon when I was living on the farm all alone, Mr. Emile Picard came to visit me. We decided to have a shooting contest to pass the time away. He cut white squares of paper 2 inches by 2 inches, and we nailed these, as needed with a shingle nail to a fence post about forty yards away. Our shooting was surprisingly alike. When his shot hit a quarter inch away from the nail head, so did mine. We even exchanged rifles and our shooting was still the same, even though his rifle had open sights and mine was equipped with a telescopic sight. He had the famous Winchester 22 repeater and I had a Mossberg.

We were getting tired of trying to outshoot one another, so we decided to shoot only two more shots. The one shot closer to the nail head would be the winning shot. He had the first shot, and his shot was so close to the nail it must have touched it. I had a very carefully aimed last shot, and it was a problem to find where my bullet hit. It went through the same bullet hole as his. It was a tie. We just couldn't outshoot one another. The most incredible thing about this incident is the fact that we were shooting always the same. I cannot explain this.

I would have misgivings about writing of this remarkable experience if Mr. Picard was not still living. He can be consulted as to the truth of our shooting contest.

Let us now turn to some of the first homesteaders around here. Across the fence north of our place is Joe Locke's homestead. We used to play around his shack. He used to work for my dad, running one boat while my dad ran another, ferrying people across the bay between Duluth, Minnesota and Superior, Wisconsin. My dad came out West in 1909, and Joe Locke followed a couple of years later when the cabin was finished. He brought my mother and her young daughter Blanche who was then 2½ years old. He later sold his homestead to Joseph Leroux, and Mr. Leroux sold it to Mr. Neveu our neighbour. It is now owned by Rodolphe Cote.

Mr. Joe Locke retired in the town of St. Paul after he sold his farm. He became an undertaker and

drove a hearse pulled by a team of horses. He was my oldest sister Blanche's godfather.

One mile east of our place was Dumont's homestead where I first saw "windows of gold" in his house. This is an illusion caused by the reflection of the setting sun shining on the windows.

Mr. Lalonde homesteaded one-half mile east of us between Dumont and Mr. Louis Moreau. Mr. Lalonde had sold out his farm to Mr. Neveu, and had already retired in the town of St. Paul when he helped us make the foundation of the house and pour the concrete. I was then twelve years old. Mr. Moreau homesteaded across the road east of us, and started operations with a team of oxen. My sister Blanche recalls a time when the oxen ran away from flies and got stuck in the barn so tight that Mr. Moreau came to get Dad to help him untangle the horses.

South of my uncle Joseph Tremblay's homestead where I now live, the land was homesteaded by Mr. Small. I remember seeing the log cabin once with my sister Blanche. He built another log cabin closer to the main road which I saw. I also saw him digging a well with my dad near his new cabin. The hole was 4 by 4 feet, and the dirt was hoisted up with a roller and a crank that fastened over the well. What I found interesting was that when lunch time came they hoisted the man digging from the bottom of the well. The wooden box that was used to carry a man. Mr. Small never lived in his new cabin. He sold his farm to Mr. Pierre Cote. He had two boys, one of whom was drowned while clearing a log jam. Mr. Small was a butcher by trade, and he would butcher a pig for us. He'd hang it by the hind legs and stab the animal through the heart in the same way they kill pigs at the packing plants. My mother would save the blood for making blood sausage.

This is my story of the old days, and of my impressions of those days, from as far back as I can remember, and from the homesteading times to the transition from horse days to the tractor age. After those times is a different story which belongs to another age.

ANDREW TKACHYK

by Andrew Tkachyk

I, Andrew Tkachyk, born at Vilna in 1922, married Helen Brodziak of St. Brides. We were married October 26, 1946 by Father Cartier at Ashmont Catholic Church.

We lived with my parents on the farm at Stry for the winter, then early spring we bought a quarter of land from Richard and Anne Larkin of St. Brides, N.E. 2-58-11-W4, February 25, 1947.

We lived in St. Brides and worked our land for 21 years, and raised 6 children — 4 sons and 2 daughters.

Lenord was born 1947 and married Dianna Koyakevich October 9, 1971. They have 2 daughters, Jennifer and Tracy and are living in Edmonton.

Darlene was born 1950 and is living in Edmonton.

Dwayne was born 1951 also living in Edmonton. Elaine and Earnest are our twins born 1953. Elaine married Wally Reinsh July 21, 1973 they have 2 children Jody and Gary and are living in Edmonton. Earnest married Debbie Karwash June 11, 1977 and are living in Edmonton.

David was born 1955 and is living in St. Paul.

In 1965 I got a job at Co-op Lumber yard in St. Paul as a carpenter, drove to work and did the farming in the evenings.

In 1968 we built our house and moved to St. Paul to live, but kept our farm and worked our land till May 5, 1976.

HARVEY E TWA

by N. Gongs

Harvey was born not far from Hull, Quebec in 1894, left home when quite young, worked at many trades in the eastern provinces, and the eastern part of the U.S.A., worked west to Oregon and Idaho, and finally back to Canada to the Milk River country in southern Alberta in 1933. While getting a haircut in Milk River one day, the barber mentioned that he had a share in the Doo-Dad gold mine close to Athabasca on the Athabasca River, and asked Harvey if he would be interested in going there and see what he thought of it. This mine didn't amount to much, so Harvey panned gold on the river, worked for farmers at odd jobs, and at logging in the winter. This is where I met Harvey.

Things were rough, as it was the depression years. Jobs were scarce, money scarcer. In 1935 I told Harvey I was leaving Athabasca and going south to Brosseau. He decided to come along as did Tom Kirk. We got a job threshing for A. Fouquette, a man and team \$2.25 a day. We enjoyed threshing in the Lafond area very much, the people were real



Harvey Twa, brother and nephew.

fine. I look back today, so many of the people we had there in 1935 have passed on, so many were quite young. Harvey worked in the Lafond district for about 3 years. He had a reputation for being a very good all around man, reliable, honest, with everyone as well as himself. He then went on to mink farming for a while with Leo Maurice. From this, about a year later, he again drifted west to Edson and finally to Victoria, B.C. where he worked in a shipyard during World War II. After the war, Harvey made what was to be his last move to Enderly, B.C. where he had a brother. He spent his remaining years doing security work, with hobbies of photography, a bit of prospecting, and writing letters to his many friends, until his passing in 1964.

Harvey was one of the most interesting personalities I have ever had the pleasure of knowing in my lifetime — intelligent, honest, ready to give you the shirt off his back. He had the respect of all who knew him, may they be old or young.

THE PETER TWERDY (NEE MADELINE KROCHMAL) FAMILY

by Linda Fedoruk

Madeline, was the seventh child in the family of Walter and Margaret Krochmal. Along with her brother Wally, she attended the Lafond School for



Wedding Picture of Madeline Krochmal and Peter Twurdy.



Charlene, Brian and Christene (Twerdy).

most of her grades. She fitted right into a French community and school, and has learned to speak French fluently. She was at the top of her French class, being the only non-French pupil in her class. Madeline was also very active in 4-H, taking part in it for four years. One year she won the Alberta Wheat Pool Award for having the nicest garden. She spent a week at the Edmonton Exhibition, with other 4-H'ers from across Alberta. Public speaking was also natural for her, and she was chosen by the 4-H to go to Olds, but being too young, she could not attend.

Madeline worked as a store clerk for some time, and later for the Alberta Government Telephones for eleven years. While she was working, she met this handsome young man who won her heart. So on April 24th, 1965, Madeline married Peter Twurdy, son of Mr. and Mrs. Mike Twurdy of Glendon. Peter, at the time worked for Highway 28 transport in St. Paul. He worked there for a total of 19 years, and he was well known for always having a sparkling and immaculate truck.

Madeline and Peter have a terrific little family of three children. Brian, the oldest, and the only son, was born in 1965, and Charlene followed a year later in 1966. Then, along came another little daughter, Christene, in 1968. Christene decided "I want to always be the baby in this family," so Madeline and Peter had to say quits!

Their family is slowly growing up and Madeline and Peter have started a catering service (Little Pete's Catering 1981), where the children are a great help to them.

MR. AND MRS. GEORGE TYMCHUK

by Florence Tymchuk

George and Mary (nee Fodchuk) emigrated to Canada in the year 1914 from Orelick, in the Ukraine. They had a family of two boys and two girls; Pearl, Sophie, Tom and Nick. Tom, being the youngest and Pearl the oldest. Upon arrival to Canada their first stopover was in Mundare, Alberta, where two of their daughters were residing. After spending two months or so they decided on purchasing their own homestead. However, land in the Mundare area was very highly priced so they chose to move to the Lac Bellevue district. They purchased a homestead on March 21, 1914, for \$10.00. Their journey was a long one. They travelled by oxen which took them six weeks. The description of the land which was purchased by them was N.W. 4-56-9-4. Many long hours were spent by our grandparents, trying to first clear enough land to build a house then to clear enough for seeding a crop. Until a house was built our grandparents had to sleep under a tub which was put over a hole in the ground. Their son Tom was 14 years of age at the time of their arrival.



George and Mary Tymchuk taken on Mar. 2, 1914 on homestead at N.W. 4-56-9-4.

One daughter Pearl, arrived in 1909 to the Willingdon area and in approximately two years she met and married Eli Semotiuk. Today Pearl is residing in the Vegreville nursing home. Sophie married Nick Zacharuk of Willingdon. They had 3 children, Mike, Bill and Mary, all of whom reside in Vegreville.

In 1927, Tom met and married Margaret Feniak of Mundare. They had two sons, John and Steve. John married and is residing in Mundare and Steve is also married and living in Edmonton. Margaret resides in Edmonton near her son Steve.



Tom and Margaret Tymchuk with children Steve and John, standing on trunk.



George and Mary Tymchuk with family members, Eli Semotiuk (Pearl's husband) Pearl Semotiuk (daughter) and Tom Tymchuk (bottom row) Nestor Semotiuk (grandson) George Tymchuk, Mary Tymchuk, John Tymchuk, (grandson) and Ray Fodchuk (grandma's cousin) Picture taken in 1933.

JOHN A. TYMCHUK AND FAMILY

by John Tymchuk

John A. Tymchuk was born July 1, 1932, in Lac Bellevue, Alberta, to Nick and Anna Tymchuk. John attended Henley School with Mary and Dorothy Gadowski being his teachers. After the school day was over John, like most others, helped his parents on the farm.

In 1950, at the age of 18 years, John worked for an oil company in the Calmar Leduc area. In 1953, John returned home to apprentice at the St. Paul Foundry. Here he worked till approximately 1954 or 1955, when John left home again and moved to Camrose Alta. where he was employed at the Alice Hotel.



Picture taken Feb. 1981 at the home of John A. Tymchuk in Coquitlam, B.C. L-R: Ruby, Dwight, John, Alan, Donna.

It was while working in Camrose that John met Ruby Seline, and on March 16, 1956, John and Ruby were married.

In 1957, John entered the field of Hairdressing in Edmonton, Alta. At the end of his training, John purchased and operated a beauty salon in Lloydminster, Sask. After working at this trade for 10 years, John and Ruby moved to Calgary in 1967 where he continued with his line of work.

In 1970, John and Ruby sold their business and moved to Coquitlam, B.C. where John is presently operating a beauty salon in Burnaby, B.C.

John and Ruby have a family of three children, two boys and one girl, Dwight, Donna and Alan.

MIKE AND EDNA TYMCHUK AND FAMILY

by Edna Tymchuk

Mike Tymchuk was born in St. Paul, Alta. on September 26, 1933. He is the youngest child of Nick and Annie Tymchuk, who lived in the Lac Bellevue area.

Mike started school when he was six years old, and he and his brothers, Bill and John attended Henley School. During the summer months they walked to school which was three and one half miles away. During the winter they travelled to school by horse and sleigh.

At the age of sixteen, he stayed home and helped his father with the field work and chores. By nineteen he went to work for the neighbors, helping out with the harvesting as well as spring work. Later on, Mike moved on, working in the Myrnam district harvesting for various farmers who needed the extra hand. After working out for a couple of years, Mike returned home and continued helping out on the farm.

On August 25, 1962, Mike got married to Edna Gadowski, the second oldest daughter of Stanley and Annie Gadowski, who were farmers as well, in the Lac Bellevue district for many years. Edna attended the Lac Canard School for six years and later taking the rest of her schooling at the Glen Avon School in St. Paul. They lived at the Tymchuk residence after their marriage for five years, while Mike's father Nick, decided to move to Edmonton and his brothers Bill and John, were both married; Bill living in the Lac Bellevue area and John living in Lloydminster. The location of the land was N.E. 8-56-9-4.

The next year, Mike and Edna bought a quarter of land S.W. 16-56-9-4, which was located one half mile north of their home quarter. This quarter of land was bought from Fred Wills for \$2100.00.

In 1967 they sold their home quarter to the community pasture and in turn bought two quarters of land from Stanley A. Gadowski (S.E. 14-56-9-4). These two quarters were situated east of the Lac Bellevue Hall.



Mike Tymchuk Family 1979. Back: Wayne, Mike. Front: Sharon, Shawn, Edna.

Mike and Edna have a family of three children; Sharon, Wayne and Shawn. Sharon was born on May 20, 1964; Wayne born on June 28, 1966; and Shawn was born on Oct. 28, 1974. They were all born at the St. Theresa Hospital in St. Paul.

Sharon completed her elementary and junior high at Glen Avon School and is now attending her second year at the St. Paul Regional High School.

Wayne is presently taking grade nine at the Glen Avon School.

Shawn has just started taking his first year of school at the beginning of August, 1980 at the Glen Avon School at St. Paul. He attended one year of kindergarten.

MR. AND MRS. NICK TYMCHUK

by Florence Tymchuk

Mr. Nikolay Tymchuk was born on the 15 of December, 1895 in Orelick, Walezkowce, Galicia. He left his homeland, his parents and one brother in 1912 when he sailed to Canada at the age of 17 years. This was the time World War I broke out.

Being his two sisters already were in Canada he thought it wouldn't be as hard to be away. Money was very scarce so the first job he could find, he thought he'd take. He first came to Port Arthur, Ontario. With a railroad track being built, it was no problem to get a job. When his parents arrived in Canada in 1914, he left Ontario to join them in Mundare, Alberta. He stayed there only a short time when the family decided to purchase their own land.

He lived with his parents a short time when he finally decided he wanted his own parcel of land. After working out for a while he earned enough money to purchase his own homestead, July 23, 1914, one half mile north of his father's, N.E. 8-56-



Anna and Nick Tymchuk on their wedding day in 1929.



Friends of the family at Bill Hryhurchuks across from Beela School.
Back row: L to R. Anna Tymchuk, Nick Tymchuk, unknown, unknown, Nick Cwyk and Katie Hryhurchuk. Front row: Vera Barlad, Mary Tymchuk, Victor Gill and Mary Gill.

9-4, for \$10.00. He built a one room shack, approximately in 1926. After spending a few years he met Anna Tatarin and they were married in 1929. Together they worked clearing the land. A bigger house was needed. About 12 acres was cleared for putting in a crop. With a team of oxen and a walking plow he had his land worked up. They hauled logs off their own land to build a bigger house. It wasn't long before they had a new two room log house built. Nick's parents, George and Mary moved into Nick's first log shack to have someone care for them.

Nick and Anna had three boys, Bill, John and Mike. The three boys, once small, walked to Henley school where they received education. After they were old enough to sit on a horse, they rode, the 3½ miles.

In 1948, we had our first tractor, a Model D John Deere. By this time we owned three quarters of land, and leased some.

In 1952, we purchased our first farm truck. With three boys at home and Mother and Dad, farming seemed somewhat easier. However, in January of 1953, tragedy struck our family when Dad lost his wife and brother within 3 days' time. Nick and his sons farmed on the original homestead till retirement in 1962. He then took up residence in Edmonton, where he lived until winter of 1977. He now resides in Parkland Nursing Home in St. Paul.



A winter scene in 1939 Nick Tymchuk with sons John, Bill and Mike. Anna Tymchuk and Fred Zacharuk standing on cutters.

WILLIAM AND FLORENCE TYMCHUK

by Florence Tymchuk

William Tymchuk, son of Nickolay and Anna Tymchuk, was born February 10th, 1931 in Lac Bellevue. At the age of seven years, he began going to Henley School, some 3½ miles from home, which led him through bush trails. Being of Ukrainian origin, his only language spoken was Ukrainian and he was strapped for not being able to speak English. How times have changed today.

Being the eldest of three children, his father trusted him using a horse and buggy or cutters, when the other children started school.



Picture taken Oct 4/80 — William, Florence, Donald and Troy Tymchuk.

In the summer of 1946, William left school to help out on the farm, however, to financially better themselves, William took his very first job. Using a high wooden wagon, William went to work at a neighbor's; Ludwig Gadowski's, hauling bundles. Hours were long and tiring for a 15 year old boy.

Then in 1947, during harvest time, which seemed to be the best time to find work, William ventured out to the Vegreville area. His earnings were very reasonable at that time, like \$.80 per hour. When the harvest season was over, he returned home with enough money to add to his father's and eventually think of buying a vehicle for the family. The family worked very closely together.

In the early 50's, William's mother became ill and the family all stayed together on the farm. Having their very first truck made it easier bringing their mother to the hospital for treatments.

On January 7th, 1953, which was Ukrainian Christmas Day, William's mother passed away at the age of 52 years, after a lengthy illness. With his father losing his companion and not getting younger, William and his brother continued to carry out all the farm duties.

After several years passed, William usually left home for the winter to work in bush camps sawing lumber and returning in the spring to help his father and brother on the farm.

Florence Tymchuk (nee Paziuk) was born August 22nd, 1942 in Lac Bellevue. Her first three years of school were in Lac Canard, some 5 miles from home. The teacher then was Annie Halina. She then attended the next five years in Lac Bellevue with Steve Petruk being the teacher, and finishing her high school in St. Paul. Upon ending school, she entered the work field which was with Alberta Government Telephones. Some five years lapsed before William and Florence were married. July 6th, 1962 was the first day of their life together. William then decided farming was still the best business. William and Florence left St. Paul and rented 2 quarters of land which was previously owned by Paul Wannechko.

On January 12, 1963, William and Florence had their first son, Donald. After experiencing all the conveniences in town, and none on the farm, they only farmed for three years, when again they moved to St. Paul to begin what they thought a great future.

Not having any other trade except farming, William found it rather hard to look for a job. However, William accepted the first job which was with the Hotel business where he worked some 10 years. Florence again went to work for the telephone company. Struggling, they bought their first home, in St. Paul originally built by Bill Paziuk.

In 1968, Florence re-entered school and took up a profession in hairdressing. On September 13, 1972, they had their second son, Troy. William was not too satisfied working indoors, especially coming from a farm, so he quit the hotel business and went to work for Letourneau Farm Supplies in St. Paul setting up machinery. William only worked some six months when his health failed him. After a long convalescence, he returned to work in hopes of owning a farm again. He purchased a quarter of land from Joe Linkewich N.W. 35-56-9-4 which at one time was owned by John Perensky. He continued to work for a few years when his health failed him the second time.

William had a very early retirement, however, his dream has come true and he ends up owning his own farm land, of which he and his family enjoy every minute.

FRED AND CECILE TYMKO

by Arlene Tymko

My great grandparents, John and Katherine Tymko came from Ukraine and homesteaded in the area near Innisfree. They moved much during this time trying to find good land to make a home. It was 1908 when my grandfather, Fred Tymko was born. The whole family consisted of five children in all. 1914 was the year, great great grandfather, Harry Tymko homesteaded in Lac Bellevue area. John and Katherine with their family joined him



Tymko Family: Fred, Harry, Evangeline and Cecile.

on his homestead. They lived there until 1917 when they moved to Two Hills, Alberta. Two Hills was their home until 1933, when they moved to their final homestead in Lac Bellevue.

It was in February of 1930, when Fred Tymko filed his homestead in Lac Bellevue. He then married Cecile (née Yuschyshyn) in 1933. Cecile was born in 1916 and lived all her life in the Lac Bellevue area. Her father stayed on his homestead since 1914, when he first emigrated from Ukraine.

Since the newly wed couple didn't have a house, they lived with my great grandparents.

By the year 1935, their first child, Harry was born. The following summer, disaster struck and crops were hailed out. There wasn't any hail insurance or any other kind of reimbursement for the loss. The only way the family could survive was, my grandfather going to work out. He had to earn enough money to live off of the rest of the year.

The farm buildings on my grandfather's homestead were built one at a time. First the granary, second the house, and then the barn. It was 1938 before they moved to their new home.

In 1942 their second child, Evangeline was born. This was their last child and now their family was complete.

Up until 1948, horses were the main source of power in the fields. But in 1948, grandfather bought his first tractor. By now, great grandfather had retired and moved back to Two Hills. Now grandfather had another quarter section of land to farm.

He bought two other neighbouring quarters making four in all. By 1949 a truck was also bought so now transportation was made easier.

1962 was the year electricity was installed on my grandfather's farm. Many modern machines were added to the farm. Old things such as horses were being replaced with new things. 1967 was the year the combine was bought. Prior to this all harvesting was done by a threshing machine. With a combine it took less time and less manpower.

My grandfather farmed his land until 1973. He retired and sold his land to his son Harry, to carry on the farming operation.

They are presently living in town in their own house. My grandparents are both actively involved in the Senior Citizens Club in St. Paul. My grandmother still enjoys sewing and many other handicrafts. My grandfather plays pool or comes out to the farm to help my father.



Cecile Tymko with son, Harry (1938).



Fred Tymko examining his bumper grain crop in 1935-36.

HARRY TYMKO AND FAMILY

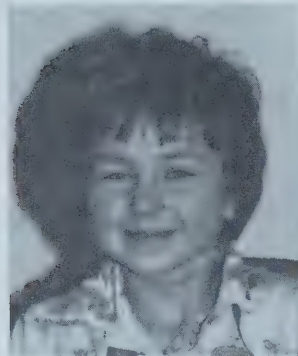
by Nettie Tymko

On November 24th, 1962, we were married in the St. Paul United Church. As newlyweds, we stayed with Harry's parents for a short period of time. We then set up our own residence on the neighboring quarter. There were no modern conveniences on our farm. All the work was done as in the pioneer days. Vegetables, meat and fruits were preserved in jars and put in the cellar. All four children were raised without modern washers and dryers.

During the years prior to 1968, all the harvesting was done by threshing machine. Then in 1968, we purchased our first combine which made the procedure of harvesting much easier.

In the fall of 1974, Harry's parents, Fred and Cecile Tymko moved into St. Paul. Our family then moved to their farm. There was the convenience of electricity which was greatly appreciated.

In 1978, we bought a trailer, with it came the added convenience of running water.



Harry Tymko Family. Top L-R: Lyle, Arlene. Bottom L-R: Anita, Leslie.



Harry and Nettie (nee Krys) Tymko on their wedding day Nov. 24, 1962.

Our farm is mainly a mixed farming operation with both livestock and grain. During the winter months, when things are not so hectic, I get to do my favorite pastimes, which are crocheting, embroidery, knitting and baking. My husband Harry loves the outdoors and fishing, hunting and trapping keeps him busy. Spring, summer and fall, the whole family keeps busy with the seeding, haying and harvesting. Our family consists of two boys and two girls.

The oldest of the children is Leslie, who is 17 years old now. He is attending Regional High School. His favorite pastimes are working with engines, rodeoing, snowmobiling, and motor-biking.

Arlene is the second oldest, and is 16 years old. She is attending Regional High School. Arlene has been an active member of the 4-H Club for the past six years. Her favorite pastime is curling.

Lyle, who is 13 years of age, is presently attending Glen Avon School. He likes all sports.

Anita, our youngest is 8 years old. She is attending Glen Avon School. She likes reading and learning to bake.

STEVE TYMKO

by Pauline Lakusta

Steve Tymko came to Canada in 1908 from Brodiw, Galicia at the age of eighteen. In 1909 his father Safat Tymko followed him.

Steve Sr. and Safat farmed in Innisfree one year. In 1909 he married Rosalie Palsat.



Safat Tymko, Father of Steve Tymko Sr.



Steve Tymko Sr. on "Fanny".

A few years later they sold the farm and moved to Lac Bellevue. When the girls were of school age they moved to Chesterville. After the school was built they moved back to their farm at Lac Bellevue.

In 1936, Steve Sr. died of a heart attack. They had nine children; Annie, Nellie, Mary, Clara, Olga, Sophie, Jean, Steve, and Margaret.

WILLIAM TYMOFICHUK

by Alice Tymofichuk

William Tymofichuk was born on January 2, 1935 to Peter and Helen (née Krankowski) Tymofichuk. He was the youngest of seven children.

The children walked 2½ miles from the home-
stead to the school at Henley. Sometimes a short
cut was taken through the Burak and Berezanski
fields. In the summer everyone walked barefooted
when it was muddy so they wouldn't ruin their
shoes. In the wintertime their father would drive
them with a sleigh and a team.

Bill remembers once when they were old
enough to handle the team themselves, that they
traveled as far as Berezanski's and the cutter upset
on a snowdrift. The horses wrecked the cutter and
ran all the way home leaving the cutter and children
behind.



Taken in 1979. Front row: Violet, Alice's aunt from Poland. Back row: Evelyn, Robert, William and Alice Tymofichuk.



Nephews Jim Paliwoda and Glen Paliwoda. Their uncle Bill Tymofichuk holding baby colt, 1959. Old thatched roofs of barns.

The children earned extra money by collecting
maggie feet and crows' feet and selling them to the
teacher who paid them, from the school division, 2¢
a pair. The crows and magpies were considered
predators. Sometimes the teacher would then
throw these feet into a ditch. Bill and his brothers
would pick them up and bring them back for
another bounty collection. Imagine they even had
recycling in those days! The teacher soon got smart
to their tricks and burned the feet after payment.

A child would bring a ladder to school and as
many children as possible would climb aboard and
slide down the hill in the school yard.

Each school played football in winter and soft-
ball in summer and would compete against other
schools such as Lake Eliza, Lac Canard and Beela.

The children had homemade sleighs out of
wood and skates that were made by using a small
board to fit the bottom of the shoe, with two wires
as running blades. Bill remembers working for
hours making homemade skis. They would boil the
ends of the boards for 3-4 hours and bend them by
wiring the ends in such a way that, once dried,
they would be curved, for a while.

Christmas and Easter were always special oc-
casions because families gathered together. It was
also the only time the family had a treat of an apple
or an orange.

On Christmas Eve, which was celebrated on
January 6, hay was placed under the table and nuts
and candies were thrown on the hay and the chil-
dren would scramble for them.

Bill started farming on his own on his dad's
homeplace S.W. 35-55-9-W4 in 1956.

During 1960 and 1961 he supplemented his in-
come by working full-time as a ferryman on the
Myrnam ferry. He also worked as a part-time ferry-



1980 Provincial 4H Heifer Show.
L-R: Back row: Girl unknown
holding banner, Evelyn
Tymofichuk. Front row: holding
calf, Robert Tymofichuk.

man for the next four years.

He married Alice Niedzielski daughter of John and Eva (née Kurek) Niedzielski on July 14, 1962.

Alice was born June 6, 1945. She attended Flat Lake School the first year and when it closed, she transferred to Glendon where she completed grade 10.

Out of their union two children were born. Evelyn Mary was born May 18, 1963. She attended grades 1-9 at Glen Avon School in St. Paul and is presently completing her grade 12 at the St. Paul Regional High. She was also a member of the St. Paul 4H — Multi Club, Heifer Class for the past seven years. Over the years she served as club reporter, secretary, president and presently treasurer.

Evelyn won the 1980 Grand Champion Cross-bred Heifer at the Provincial 4H Heifer Show. She showed her polled 3/4 Simmental two year old cow with her polled 7/8 Simmental calf at foot.

Robert Peter was born January 17, 1969. He is presently in grade seven at Glen Avon School in St. Paul. He is completing his second year as a Heifer class member of the St. Paul 4H — Multi Club.

Alice works in St. Paul part-time as a liquor store clerk. She is a board member of the Lac Bellevue Recreation Association and also of the Agricultural Advisory Board.

Bill serves as secretary of St. Michaels Cemetery and as a board member of the St. Paul Grazing Reserve.

Bill and Alice are presently mixed farming with an emphasis on commercial crossbred hereford and simmental cattle. They still reside on S.W. 35-55-9-W4 known as Little Bear Stock Farm.

JOE TYMOFICHUK

by The Tymofichuk Family

Joe Tymofichuk was born November 30, 1931 to Peter and Helen (née Krankowski) Tymofichuk. There were seven children in the family.

He attended school at Henley where he was taught over the years by Miss Katie Holick, Mrs. Mary Gadowsky and Miss Dorothy Hauca.

When Joe was twelve years old, the family moved to within half a mile of the school and his younger brother Bill and himself were hired by the school for twenty-five cents a month to make wood fires in the furnace to heat the two room school house. They had to come about an hour and a half before the other students to do this.

Gophers became a pest and were taking over the land. Joe and his brothers made money by catching gophers for one cent a tail for Tim Boratynec. They would pull the tail off the gophers and then let it go in hopes that he would grow another one.

After his schooling he moved to B.C. and worked in Pett Meadows at a peat harvesting plant. He bought a 1936 Ford car in 1950 and drove back with it from the coast. It took four days.

Joe then spent another ten years operating cats on road construction before meeting and marrying Millie Yakimowich, daughter of Alex and Eva (née Kiss) Yakimowich on October 26, 1957. Millie was born March 19, 1940. She attended Swedeboro School. She was the oldest of a family of four. They purchased S. 1/2 9-56-8-W4 from Gus Swanson and started farming in 1958.

In 1967, they moved to their present location N.W. 17-56-8-W4, which they purchased from



The Joe Tymofichuk Family. L-R: Back row: Jack, Arlene, Judy. Front row: Joe, Wayne and Millie.

Johnny Cherniowsky. They are mixed farming with an emphasis on commercial hereford cattle.

Joe serves on the County Recreation Board and they both are members of the Stoney Lake Stampede Association.

Their oldest child is a girl, Judy Anne, who was born on July 1, 1958. She is presently employed at the Bank of Commerce in Edmonton.

Their son, Jack was born September 10, 1959. After his formal schooling, he attended Nait where he took carpentry. He is presently employed by Bert Pratch Construction.

On May 18, 1962, Arlene Eva was born. She is presently employed at Saan Stores in St. Paul.

The youngest son, Wayne Joseph was born December 3, 1966. All the children attended Elk Point School and played high school basketball.

MIKE TYMOFICHUK

by Alice Tymofichuk

Mike Tymofichuk was born September 15, 1929 to Peter and Helen (née Krankowski) Tymofichuk at the homestead house in Lake Eliza.

He attended Henley School from grades one to eight. He started three days in grade nine and then quit when he found out that the books for that year



Taken in 1979. Back row: Barry Yurkowski, Aunt Violet from Poland, Debbie Hrabec, and Nick Hrabec. Front row: Mike Tymofichuk, Diane Yurkowski, and Helen Tymofichuk.



Beaver trapping in spring of 1951. L-R: Bill Tymofichuk and Mike Tymofichuk.

would cost \$32.00. There was no money at home so that was the end of his education. During that time his father, Peter was hospitalized with a bad back and his brother, Bill was in Edmonton Hospital with a smashed arm, for a year. This caused a financial stress on the family so there wasn't any extra money.

When he was growing up, groups of young people would get together and ride horseback to the shows and dances that were held in Lafond Church basement, Lac Bellevue Hall, Lake Eliza Hall, and Rannoch Hall.

In 1949, Mike spent the winter working at a sawmill in Port Moody, B.C. and for a few years after he worked in bush camps, north of Lac La Biche and Edson. During the summer he helped his family on the farm.

In February of 1954 he met Helen Niedzielski, daughter of John and Evelyn (née Kurek) Niedzielski from Flat Lake, at the wedding of John and Rose Krankowski, at Lac Bellevue Hall. They were married on November 23, 1954 and had their wedding in Lac Bellevue Hall.

Helen was born on October 20, 1933, second oldest child of a family of four: George, Helen, Anne and Alice. She attended the country school at Flat Lake where she completed elementary and Junior High.

Mike and Helen bought three quarters and two fractions of land from the Halina family and settled on N.W. 12-56-9-W4 in 1955.



Mike and Helen Tymofichuk's wedding, November 23, 1954. L-R: Back row: Billy F. Krankowski, Mike Tymofichuk, Frances Wengzynowski, Joe Tymofichuk, and John Zacharuk. Front row: Helen Kriaski, Helen Tymofichuk, and Stella Burak.

From their union three children were born. Diane Linda was born September 14, 1955. She attended Glen Avon Separate School and then completed her education at the Regional High School in St. Paul in 1973. She married Barry Yurkowski on October 11, 1975 and they presently reside in the Lac Bellevue area.

The second daughter, Debbie Ann was born June 28, 1958. Debbie attended Glen Avon Separate School and then completed her education at the St. Paul Regional in 1976. She then attended Alberta Vocational College and the Royal Alexandria Hospital, where she graduated as a Registered Nursing Assistant. She found employment at the St. Thérèse Hospital in St. Paul. On June 17, 1978, she married Nick Hrabec, son of Andrew and Millie Hrabec from Myrnam. They built a home in St. Paul in 1979. Debbie is still nursing at the St. Thérèse Hospital and Nick is apprenticing as a plumber and is going to College at Fort McMurray at this time.

In 1960 a third child was born (a still birth), Florence Lynn was born (8½ months). She is buried at the Lac Bellevue Cemetery.

Mike served as the first president of the Lac Bellevue Recreation Association and Helen is a board member of the Lac Bellevue cemetery and she also is presently employed as a part-time cook for the Correctional Institute in St. Paul.

They still have a mixed farming operation, with a herd of commercial hereford cattle and also hold a registered trap line, which they both enjoy hunting, trapping and fishing.

NICK TYMOFICHUK

by Alice Tymofichuk

Nick Tymofichuk was born to Peter and Helen (née Krankowski) Tymofichuk in Wolchkewcie, Sniatyn, Poland on December 5, 1914. He was the oldest of eight children.

In 1923, he emigrated to Canada with his mother, Helen, his grandfather, John Krankowski, his sister Rosie, Anne Lasichuk and her son Tom. They settled and homesteaded in the Lake Eliza district.

He attended school to the end of grade seven at Henley School. There was work of all kinds on the farm, cutting bush and plowing by hand and an extra set of hands was a great help.

Nick remembers when school was held only during the couple months of summer and later it started from May to September. Years later it started from September to June as we know it now.

Nick recalls that the teachers were not paid by the County so the local chairman of the school board and the secretary went from house to house to collect money to pay the teacher. Children brought milk and garden produce for the teacher also.

For recreation there were local socials, dances, concerts and plays. A play would be held first, with a dance following. Nick took part in acting in the plays and for this he would get a free ticket to the dance, which would otherwise cost fifteen cents.

For transportation one either walked or if you were fortunate enough to have a horse, you rode.

Nick met Nancy Kasnitski in 1935. She was born on May 3, 1915 to Mike and Katie (née Herniak) Kasnitski. Nancy was the third oldest child in a family of four. Her sisters were: Rosie, Eva, and Edna. Nancy attended school at Ruryk, which was four miles north of Derwent. She had to walk three miles to school. She also remembers riding in a wagon pulled by oxen.

Nick and Nancy met at Lac Bellevue Hall at a dance. Nancy had been babysitting in the area at her sister's, Eva Babey, and while there she decided to attend the dance. They dated for four years and when the roads weren't fit for cutters or buggy they would ride double in the saddle on horseback to dances at Beela and Lac Bellevue.

They then married on April 30, 1939. They lived for one year with Nancy's parents in Derwent and they moved back to the Lake Eliza district and settled on N.W. 36-55-9-W4. A log house was built and plastered with mud.

The mail would come weekly to the Lake Eliza Post Office and on Saturday evening everyone would gather to pick up the mail.

Nick worked the land with horses until 1945, when he purchased a 22-36 McCormick Deering tractor on steel wheels. It had 22 horse-power on the drawbar and 36 horsepower on the pulley.

Nick bought his first vehicle in 1943. It was a 1928 Model A Ford Coach, which was converted into a truck. He paid \$300.00 for it and used it for seven years for hauling his livestock and cream to market. He only used it in the summer when the roads were passable as the roads weren't snow-plowed in winter.

In 1950 he bought a brand new Fargo truck for \$1800.00.

The wages were still poor at that time. A man would receive \$2.00 per day for pitching bundles from seven in the morning until eleven at night. If he had his own team of horses and a rack he would receive \$3.50.

Nick was active in community affairs. He served as chairman of the Henley School Board for many years and as a board member of the Myrnam Co-op Livestock and Store.

He later succeeded Joe Makoweski as a board member of the Myrnam Municipal Hospital, and served as chairman for two years. Nick still serves on the board.

He has served for years and is presently chairman of the St. Edouard Rural Electrification As-



The Nick Tymofichuk Family
January, 1981. Back row: L-R:
Garry Tymofichuk, Marlene's
fiancée Roger Lakusta, Maurice
Tymofichuk. Middle row: Pat
Tymofichuk, Marlene
Tymofichuk, Joyce Tymofichuk.
Front row: Garry's children:
Dennis and Alan, Nancy and
Nick Tymofichuk, Maurice's
children: Laureen and Melanie.



Nick and Nancy's wedding April 30, 1939. L-R: Wm. Poloway, step-father, Steve Olick, Katie Olick, Nancy and Nick Tymofichuk, Helen Tymofichuk, Peter Tymofichuk, Bill Tymofichuk.

sociation. He also serves as president of the Lac Bellevue Cemetery and as a board member of the Lac Bellevue Recreation Association.

Nancy worked hard alongside her husband, helping in the fields and taking care of their livestock and the four children that were born from their union.



L-R: Bill Tymofichuk and Nick Tymofichuk. Beaver trapping in the spring of 1951.



Nick Tymofichuk with his horse called "Lil". This was the horse used in his courting days in 1935.

On August 13, 1940, Maurice, their oldest son was born. He attended school from grade one to nine at Henley and then completed his high school at Myrnam. He then attended the University of Alberta, where he completed his Bachelor of Education degree. He taught school at Myrnam for four years, at Derwent for two years, and St. Paul Glen Avon School for one year. He is presently teaching in Edmonton.

In July of 1969, he married Joyce Buchholz who was also a teacher. They were married in Regina where Joyce came from. They have two children: Melanie and Laureen and they make their home in Edmonton.

In October of 1942, Iris was born. She died at the age of two months and is buried in the Lac Bellevue Cemetery.

On April 14, 1948, Marlene was born. She attended Henley School the first three years and then completed her elementary and high school at Glen Avon in St. Paul. She then attended the University of Alberta and got her Bachelor of Education degree. Marlene taught school in Ashmont for four years and is presently teaching in Edmonton and makes her home there.

Their youngest son, Garry Glen was born March 24, 1951. He attended Glen Avon School in

St. Paul and graduated from there. He then attended the University of Alberta and received his Bachelor of Education degree. He taught school at Lafond and at Ashmont, where he is presently employed. Garry married Pat Teplesky on July 14, 1973. They have two children: Dennis and Alan and make their home in St. Paul.

Nancy and Nick are semi-retired at the present time and are still living on the farm. Nick has a registered trap line and enjoys hunting, trapping and fishing.

PETER TYMOFICHUK

by Alice Tymofichuk

Peter Tymofichuk was born in Austria in June 1889 to Mike and Maria (nee Michaliuk) Tymofichuk. He came from a family of three children, a brother John and a sister Frozina. He was left an orphan at a very young age. He was about 7 years old. He was taken in by childless people. His job was to take the cows on a rope and watch them while grazing, day after day. He never went to school and was pushed around from job to job, cutting wheat, corn, rye and making hay all by scythe and making rye sheaves for straw thatching of roofs to make a living.

He married Helen Krankowski on February 15, 1914, daughter of John and Rosalli Krankowski. Helen was born in Wolchkeucie Sniatyn, Poland. Peter was 24 years old and Helen was 19. She came from a family of seven children. Her brothers were Frank, Tony and Mike. Her sisters were Katie and Annie. Katie died at an early age of an illness unknown. Helen herself was one of twins, the other, a brother, was deceased. Shortly after they got married, the first world war broke out, and Peter was called up to the front. He was on leave a few times within the four years.



Peter and Helen Tymofichuk in the 1930's on the homestead.



1942 — The youngest members of Peter and Helen Tymofichuk's family by the winter supply of wood that was used for cooking and heating their home. Back row: Katie, Mike and Annie. Front row: Joe and Bill.

Their first son was born in December 5, 1914. His name was Nick. Peter and Helen's second child was Rose, born on August 28, 1919.

Helen's father was a shoe maker by trade but as a sideline he was a caretaker of the cemetery and a grave digger. After the war, typhoid broke out and a lot of people got very sick and died. Since he had to help pick up the sick and the dead, he drank a lot of whiskey and ate a lot of garlic in order to prevent illness and he never got sick.

Helen's three brothers and their families, and a brother-in-law emigrated earlier from Poland to Canada. In 1923, they sponsored Peter and Helen to come to Canada and begin a new life. They packed up their belongings and children and started out for Canada.

During the immigration to Canada, they were travelling through Poland and since Peter couldn't write his name (he never went to school) he could not continue on. He was sent back to Poland to learn to sign his name. His wife Helen and their two children, Nick and Rose, John Krankowski (father of Helen), Annie Lasichuk and son Tom continued their trip to Canada. They came by boat to Halifax on the Cunard Lines and took the train to Montreal. From there they continued on by train to Edmonton then to St. Paul.

Helen's brother Frank Krankowski picked them up at the train station with a team and a wagon and journeyed to Lake Eliza district to the Frank Krankowski's homestead where Johnny Krankowski presently resides. An axe was kept in the wagon because the trees would fall over the trail and they had to be removed before the journey could be continued.

Shortly after Peter learned to sign his name, he followed his family. In the meantime Helen and her family lived with her brothers Frank, Tony, and Mike. The families were large and they lived in small quarters and the children would aggravate

SCHOOL DISTRICT No.

PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

DATE _____ 192__

SCHOOL DISTRICT TAX RECEIPT

RECEIVED from

the sum of

DOLLARS

to be applied in payment of taxes as follows:

[illegible]

Secretary-Treasurer

School District Tax Receipt.

each other and would cause frustration, bickering and hard feelings amongst one another.

It was difficult to look for a job as there were no means of transportation, so Peter had to do a lot of walking. The closest towns were St. Paul and Vegreville, Mundare and Mannville. He got a job on a farm milking cows and feeding the livestock. Since he was unable to travel, he lived with the farmer in a very cold room upstairs. The only warmth was a heated rock at the foot of the bed. He was an early riser and started the fires before the farmer was awake. He was a hard worker; which the farmer appreciated, and was given a permanent job.

In 1923, Peter saved some money to start a homestead. The homestead, S.W. 36-55-9-W4 consisted of one hundred and sixty acres. He cut logs and debarked them by hand. He built a two room hut with mud plaster and straw thatched roof. Everyone helped in the building of their home. The first coat of plaster consisted of dirt, straw and water. They could plaster the cracks between the logs with this. The second coat consisted of fine dirt, sand and water. When it dried, it was white washed with lime. The roof, straw thatched made of rye and tied in bundles, was attached to the rafters. They dug out a cellar and lined it with logs,

with an air vent which they closed in the winter and kept open in the summer for airing out. As time went on, Peter would go with the threshing crews to make extra money while Helen stayed home to look after the children. Nick was eight and Rosie was three. Helen had to tend to the few animals that they had, which were cows, pigs and horses. She would take the children with her to the field while she would cut brush and prepare the land for the breaking. Lots of hard work was done and long hours were spent. Everything was done by hand and axe and grubhoe.

Peter then bought a one furrow plow, which was pulled by horses. He would hang the reins around his neck and use his hands to guide the plow. Everytime he hit a rock or stump, it would throw the plow off course and out of his hands. When the horses were let loose, they were hobbled so they would not stray, as there were no fences.

Water was needed, therefore witching was done by Peter's father-in-law, John Krankowski. With a willow formed into a V held in his palms, the willow would then turn down to point where the water was more or less. The well was dug by hand and cribbing was made of wood. A bucket was tied on a rope and the water was brought up by hand. The length of rope was 25 to 30 feet.



Henry Tatosky and Peter Tymofichuk having a drink of beer 1929.

The bake oven was built outside. It was called a dutch oven or in Ukrainian a peech. It was made of wood frame, rocks and woven willows and then mud plaster. A vent hole at the back was made of rocks and mud plaster and the rocks were heated inside for about 2 hours before baking. The front had a rounded cover.

Peter had to look for another job to keep the family with food and clothing. Mother Helen would use the flour sacks for making a few clothes. Every bit was stitched by hand and gathered in different shapes and forms. While clearing the land, we saved the part of wood for fire and the long railing was saved for posts and fencing of the farms and for different corrals for the animals. Peter would clear an acre at a time or so and cultivate for vegetable gardens and grains which were depended upon. There was work for everyone no matter how young or how old. As long as one could carry a stick of wood, it all helped. There was no complaining whatsoever that there was nothing to do, or may be having a boring day, because by the end of the day, everyone was good and tired.

There was not much choice for food because there was only homemade bread and a few potatoes, milk and rice or homemade noodles. Sauerkraut and eggs were a favorite. We raised our own

birds for eggs and meat. As for fruit, wild saskatoon berries and strawberries which were the size of a fingertip, were picked. It took hours and hours of crawling around the tiny plants. There were blueberries, pincherries, high bush cranberries on the hillsides, jackpine, and sandy places. Sometimes we would have to go for miles to find them and maybe at the end of the day, we would be lucky to bring a basket of berries with the children's help. As for meat, there were wild ducks, prairie chickens, rabbits and ruffed grouse. Most of these were snared with a shoe lace, tying it on a long stick and gently putting it over the bird's head while it was sitting on the tree. We would then pull it quickly so it would not get away. The ducks were caught as ducklings just before they could fly. This was done in the marshland and meadows.

As the years went by, Peter had a few more pigs, cows and horses, and of course the family was getting bigger. Another daughter was born and she was named Annie. Two and a half more years Katie was born and then came Mike. Two more years came Joe and then Bill. John was stillborn. The children were all born at home and the midwife was Helen's sister, Anne Lasichuk. During meal time, there were no chairs or individual places but one long table and benches to sit on.

The parents were always busy, so the older children were left to look after the younger ones. A cradle was made of boards and planks, curved out and nailed. There were not any mattresses for the beds, so hay was spread on boards as there were no bed springs. The mattress was made of feathers and gunny sacks sewn together and had a quilt to cover on top. Everyone tried to squeeze into bed like sardines. Some had no room, so some slept at the foot of the bed with the others kicking one another and wrestling around. Mother and Dad (Peter and Helen) would take the strap out and yell, "Go to sleep or you'll get a good spanking!"

The cook stove was broken with only half of the oven door. It was used mainly for top cooking and heating the kitchen. The other room was heated with a wood heater which was stoked up quite often. In the winter, the wood had to be stored away. First, long logs were brought home and cut by a cross cut saw with two people pulling back and forth. After it was bucked and split, it was piled neatly for further use. This was in the early 20's and 30's when the winter weather was 30 and 40 degrees below zero and sometimes 60 and 70. As the years went by, the parents helped relatives and neighbours as well as one another and shared everything in order to survive. The hay and straw were stored for winter after the grass was cut and dried. It was gathered and stacked in big stacks in order to be ready for hauling it home to the barn. Most of the buildings were straw thatched except the chicken coops and the pig pens. They were made and

covered with dirt sod. The closest neighbour was half a mile away and the roads were trails for wagons and horses to get through.

The school was about 2½ miles away, and we had to walk up and down the rough and hilly fields. Rose was the oldest daughter and did not start school until she was about 9 years old. Nick had been attending school already but since Rose had to look after the younger children, she stayed home until a neighbour came to say that the teacher said that Rose must attend school or Peter would have to pay a fine. It was then decided to send Rosie to school.

The teacher used to have all grades from beginners to grade eight. Every subject was taken every-day and the school was one big room and a cloak room. One for the boys and one for the girls. A big 45 gallon barrel made into a stove was used for heating and had to be stocked quite often. There was no running water and so a well was used to get water for the school. The toilets were all outdoors no matter if it was at school or at home.

Most of the children were Ukrainian as it was a Ukrainian settlement and so were the teachers. The students were not allowed to speak Ukrainian inside the school or on the grounds or straps were used for punishment. The children were all afraid and tried to be at their best behaviour when the inspectors would come once a year. They would come to check up on the teachers and children to see just how well studies were being taught and how much was being learnt by the students.

In the summer for entertainment, there were shows, plays, some concerts and a few dances, and of course games one made up themselves. At weddings the women would get together and help one another prepare. In the winter the kids would go out to the lake, take a run and pretend that they were skating with just rubber boots on. Sleigh riding and winter snow games were always fun. The only other outings were visits with relatives and closest neighbours and that was about once a week and maybe on weekends. Church services were held in the neighbourhood homes such as John Berezanski's and Tom Paley's.

The closest Post Office was also about 3¼ miles away and the mail was picked up once a week. The Post Master was Oscar Johnson.

Later, an old radio was bought and was run by batteries so we would have some home entertainment. We all got to listen to it for a while, but just a short time. It was used only for the news or music, so the batteries weren't wasted. A two dollar license per year was mandatory and people were fined if they didn't have one.

When anyone was sick, they were sent to bed to keep warm. If it was a bad cold or cough Helen would take a large beet, hollow the inside and fill it with sugar. It was then baked in the oven and

the syrup from it was used as cough medicine. Another cough medicine was goose fat melted and a few spoonfuls of it into hot milk. Crushed garlic was rubbed on the chest and some spread on bread and we were made to eat it.

The small children never wore shoes. It was not until one started school that they got a pair of shoes. These were only worn in winter and we went barefooted in summer. There was not enough money as it was used for more important necessities such as sugar and salt. Flour was ground in the mill in St. Paul and used for baking.

As the farming became easier and the land was producing better every year, there was the odd year when almost a whole crop was wiped out, whether it was by sudden hail or heavy rains. It was then that hard work had to be done in order to salvage any little bit of produce, because every little bit meant food on the table. At times the hail storms were very bad. If travelling when the storm broke out, the horses would be tied to a tree and everyone would sit beneath the wagon, so no one would get hurt by the falling ice. Pillows were placed up against the windows in the house so that the large hail stones would not break through the panes. The pillows acted as shock absorbers to soften the impact of the hail.

In 1939 there were two weddings to prepare for. The first of the two was their oldest daughter Rose, who married Joseph Tatosky in February of that year. They went to live with Joe's father and after a disagreement, moved back to live with Peter and Helen. Approximately one year was spent there by Rose and Joe Tatosky before moving to Joe's Uncle's farm. Later, Peter's farm was sold to Rose and Joe.

The second wedding that year happened in April. Peter's oldest son, Nick married Nancy Kasnitski.

The second daughter Annie was married in 1944 to John Paliowada. He had purchased Henry Tatosky's farm a few years earlier. She died of cancer in 1962, leaving her husband, one daughter and two young sons.

In 1944 they purchased more land from Fred Burak and moved to S.W. 35-55-9-W4. The half section cost \$2000.00. The homestead quarter was located far from any road and school and this was quite an improvement. The family felt rich because they had three houses and three barns existing on the property. The barns were log and rye thatched roof but the house was modernized with log, dirt and shingled roof.

Katie was then married to John Trach in 1946. They were blessed with a daughter, Jeanette, two sons Larry and Norman and finally another daughter Maureen.

Mike married Helen Niedzielski in 1954 and they have two daughters, Diane and Debbie.



Peter and Helen Tymofichuk on their 50th Anniversary
1964.

Joe, Peter's second youngest son, later married Millie Yakimowich and they had a daughter Judy, a son Jack and then Arlene and finally another son, Wayne.

The last son to get married was Bill in 1962. He was wed to Alice Niedzielski who happened to be the sister of Mike's wife, Helen. They had a daughter, Evelyn and a son, Robert.

Peter and Helen lived with the youngest son Bill and his wife Alice for a year and then bought a house in the nearby town of St. Paul, where they lived until Helen passed away in February 26, 1969 of cancer. Peter lived in the small house in town after his wife's death until his own death February 21, 1973 of natural causes.

DELPHIS AND AGNES VAILLANCOURT (NÉE MARION)

by their daughter, Alvina Laderoute (née Vaillancourt)

Delphis, my dad, was born in the year 1882, in Montreal. He came to Alberta at the age of 18 or 19. Agnes Marion, my mother, was born in Cardiff, Alberta. Delphis met Agnes when she was 14 years old. They were married in 1906 and homesteaded in Lafond. They had six children; Delphis Jr. 1909, Alvina 1912, Aline 1916, Marie 1920, Fred 1921, and Bernard 1925.



New home of Vaillancourt taken in 1935.

We were all born in the log house and the mid-wife for all of the children was Mrs. Laframboise.

We moved into the new house in 1932. We all went to school in Lafond. Most of us started at the age of 7 and quit in our teens, lucky to get a grade seven or eight education.

When the 1918 flu epidemic broke out, it hit the Vaillancourt family hard but not as hard as some of our neighbors. We were lucky not to lose any member of the family. We all had the flu except Dad, often thought that he didn't get it because throughout the whole ordeal, he kept himself in liquor which he brewed himself. It was fortunate for our good neighbors, the Braults, that dad was able to bring them food and comfort, as the Braults were all sick and quarantened.

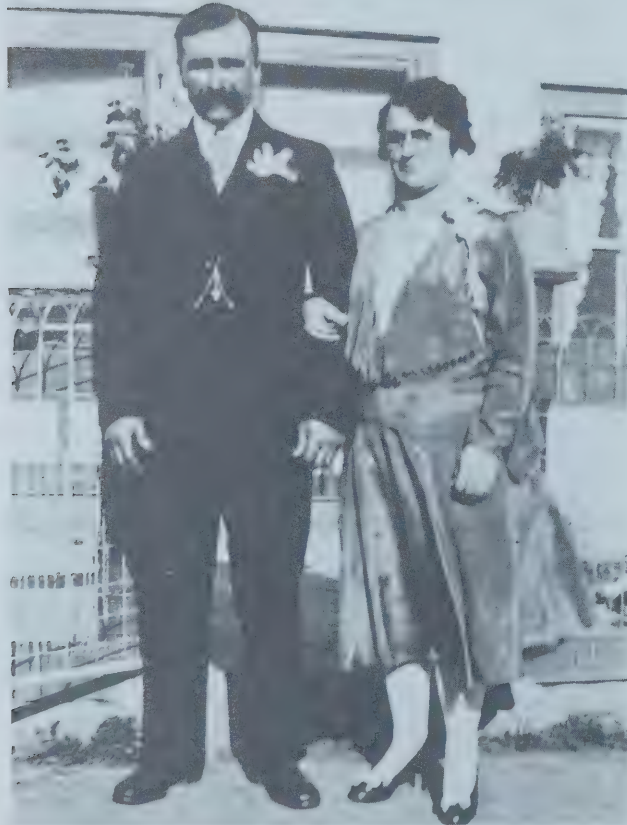
The Braults were our closest neighbors and we played and went to school with Albert, Marie, Eva, Bernadette, Laurent and Pierre.



Vaillancourt Family. Back row: Agnes (mom) and Alvina. Front row: Marie, Aline, Fred, and in the front Bernard. Missing: Delphis (dad), and Delphis Jr.



Photo taken in 1926. Log house at Lafond, Alberta. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Delphis Vaillancourt. Left - back row: Aladin Foisy, Forest Marion, Philippe Blanchette, Alvine Vaillancourt, Delphis Vaillancourt, Delphis Vaillancourt Jr., Aurore Blanchette, Augustine Foisy (Blanchette). Front row left to right: Forest's two children standing, Delphine Marion (née Chalifou) and third child in arms. Agnes Vaillancourt, Blandine Vaillancourt, and Aline Vaillancourt.



Delphis and Agnes (Marion) Vaillancourt on their 25th wedding anniversary in front of their home in Lafond.

Home remedies the Vaillancourt family used to use and still do are: turkey weed, made in a tea for fever and arthritis, and by george it works; Wild mint was also made into tea and was also good for fever and for infection. Bull rushes were made into a plaster and put directly on a wound.

Dad started farming with oxen and a breaking plow. Oxen had a mind of their own and when they wanted a drink, they would head for the slough and dad had to wait until they were good and ready before resuming the field work. He later bought some horses because they were a little easier to handle. When it came to pick the crop up, he called on a threshing crew.

As the children grew up and married, the old folks took ill and finally had to sell the farm and moved to town in the early 50's. Dad passed away at the age of 76 years in 1958. Mom died, age 75, in 1965.

JOE AND KATIE VERBISKY AND FAMILY

by Frank Verbisky

In 1898, Anton and Mary Verbisky emigrated to Canada from Austria. They lived for a year in Selkirk, Manitoba and then came out to Edmonton. Their son Joe was born in 1902 and three years later they had a daughter Mary — Mrs. Peter Shepert Sr. They lived in a small shack in Strathcona where Anton worked digging ditches and his wife Mary washed clothes and cleaned houses for other people.

In 1911, the Verbisky family moved to Stry to begin homesteading a quarter of land. Joe grew up in the Stry district and here he began courting Katie Bohachyk who lived with her parents Peter and Doris Bohachyk. Katie was the oldest of the ten children and carried a great deal of responsibilities in the upbringing of her younger brothers and sisters since her father had to work out to support the family.

In 1928, Joe married Katie Bohachyk and on the 21st of March 1929, their first son Stanley was born in the Vilna Hospital. Another son Nick, was born



Joe and Katie Verbisky.

in 1931 and two years later a daughter Olga was born to this family.

Things were getting a little crowded for Joe, Katie and their children since they lived in a two roomed log house with Joe's parents Anton and Mary. Joe had purchased two quarters of land from the Federal Government on the south tip of Saddle Lake back in 1935. Joe and Katie decided to move to St. Brides to a new beginning. They left their children behind with Joe's parents and went to begin breaking fresh land. There was a small shack and nine acres of open land which was previously cleared by the Indians. It snowed the morning that they arrived and woke to find snow on the stove, on the floor, and worst of all, a white layer of it on top of the quilt they slept under. The shack was built of green boards and these had dried over the years and now there were big cracks in the walls. "Who is going to make a fire in the stove?" Joe asked Katie. Neither would climb out from the warmth of the covers. By noon, Joe started getting hungry so finally gave in.

In October of 1935, their son Mike was born in the St. Paul Hospital. Life was hard that first year as there was food on the table but money was very scarce. They had three sows with piggies and Katie milked three cows. Within two years Katie was milking fifteen cows by hand. Cream was picked up twice a week by truck and delivered to either St. Paul by a Mr. Smith or to Vilna by Doug Hays. One received up to \$2.80 for a can of cream so money was becoming a reality. Katie saved a lot. In fact, she sewed all the clothes for the children on her "Honey Moon" brand name sewing machine. She ordered cloth from Simpsons and Eatons. She recalls how good it felt and how proud she was when her four children would be dressed all bright and clean for Sunday Church at St. Brides.

But as some things went up, others went down. Cows sold for \$5.00 a head. Katie sold four — 4 year old steers for a total of \$65.00. Roman Paziuk, a close neighbour, sold his cows for \$4.00 a head.

"You know Joe, I should get Katie to sell my cows next time since she knows how to get a good price." Roman said. Katie cried as she repeated, "\$65.00 for four big, fat, four year old steers."

Joe went to the bush camp near Sugden for the winter and in three years had enough lumber to build a new house and barn. They were planning for a nice frame house right close to the road with a barn that he did build, back up against the big popular trees.

In the early spring of 1938, the second son, Nick, suffered a serious leg injury. This resulted in a turning point as to life in St. Brides. Nick was in grade one at the time and Stan in grade two. The two boys had to walk four miles to St. Brides school. Nick was trying to catch onto a sleigh which was driven by his cousins, the Shepert boys. His leg was crushed when the sleigh slid sideways into a post. A rusty steel bolt, which was protruding, penetrated the bone. He was taken in unconsciously to the sister's quarters at the school and rushed to the St. Paul hospital by Father Carter. It took six months for the leg to heal. There was also a certain amount of friction between the different nationalities at the time. Especially amongst the school children, there wasn't too much love between the Ukrainian and the Irish. Stan came home one day with his head all bandaged up because he was struck on the head by a thrown rock.

It was a big decision to make but Joe's dad finally convinced Joe and Katie to move back to Stry. "It was because of the children," says Katie, for from home, there was a short walk to Stry School. After moving back to Stry, Joe went back to St. Brides, across the Saddle Lake Reservation every spring to seed the fields and in the fall to harvest the



Joe and Katie Verbisky's family. Back row: Stanley, Nick, Mike, Frank. Front row: Olga, Laurret, Joe, Katie, Margie, Lucille. Picture taken after wedding ceremony of 50th anniversary.



Joe Verbisky — The Sawyer.

crops. He used the lumber that he had cut in Sugen to build a new house in Stry in 1939 and subsequently a new barn and other farm buildings.

Joe loved the bush camp and every fall as the snow began to fly, the urge would come to head back to the bush. He eventually learned the art of being a sawyer and purchased his own saw mill. They would pack enough grub for two weeks at a time and head north. During the day, they felled trees, skidded and sawed. In the evening their regular entertainment was a penny to enter poker game.

Joe and Katie raised four more children — Frank, Margie, and the twins Laurett and Lucille. They helped their children through high school.

In 1972, Joe and Katie purchased a home in Vilna and moved there to retire. The family, with friends and relatives celebrated Joe's and Katie's 50th anniversary in the Stry Hall in the spring of 1978. A few months later Joe passed away.

Today, Katie keeps herself active by travelling a lot and visiting. She spent last Christmas in Hawaii with her son Mike and his family. She keeps her home very tidy and every year raises a beautiful flower and vegetable garden. Katie especially enjoys recalling her many memories and is a great story teller.

The old homeplace, which was homesteaded by Anton Verbisky in 1911, is still in the Verbisky name as Frank and his family still reside in it today.

THE WANNECHKO FAMILY

by Pauline Lakusta

Peter and Mary Wannechko emigrated to Canada from Ukraine with a seven year old son Steve and a 2 year old daughter Jessie and bought a homestead in Bruderheim, Alberta in 1901 with the hope of making a good living in a new land. Little they knew how many heartships they would encounter. Three months later they had a son Andrew, then Metro, Nick, Paul and Mike. In 1922 mother Mary died leaving at home 5 boys. Paul was 14 years old. Together they struggled 2 more years then moved to Redwater on a school section. There they lived till Paul came to Lac Bellevue to John Zacharko's



Taken on their 50th wedding anniversary, Josylien, Manoly, Pauline Lakusta, Monte, Rita Koenig, Mike, Regina Shtybel. Sitting: Alvin, Nellie, Paul.

and met Nellie in 1930. In 1931 they had a daughter Olga deceased. They moved to Redwater in 1931 and farmed there till 1937. They had 2 daughters, Pauline and Regina. In 1937 Paul with his younger brother Mike came to Lac Bellevue, bought a quarter of land and in 2 weeks cut logs and built a house, 2 barns and a chicken coop. Paul went back for his family, brought the children to Rose Tymko's, Nellie's mother and went back for the stock. They travelled from Redwater with 2 wagons, 4 horses, 20 chickens, 5 cows and 1 sow plus 3 little pigs. Nellie chased the cows on foot. At night they would milk the cows and pick up the eggs and had supper and fed the rest of the milk to the pigs. It was 120 miles, took them 5 days and Nellie wore out 2 pairs of running shoes. They farmed in Lac Bellevue for 35 years. They had a son Alvin in 1950 and daughter Rita in 1956. They moved to St. Paul in 1962 to semi-retire. Then in 1977 they sold the house and moved to Elk Point where they still reside.

Paul's father and brothers are deceased except Nick and Paul. They have 4 children: Pauline mar-



4 generations: Nellie, Katherine, Sharron Kmiech and Pauline Lakusta.

ried Manoly Lakusta and live in St. Paul. Regina married Mike Shtybel, son of Andrew and Pearl Shtybel both deceased. They live on a farm near Owlseye, Alberta.

Alvin married Josylien Baratyneć, daughter of John Baratyneć, and they live on a farm near Elk Point. Alvin is a welder.

Rita married Monte Koenig son of George and Edith Koenig of Medicine Hat. They live in Edmonton, Rita works in Glenrose Hospital as a Physiotherapist.

Paul and Nellie have 14 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

DAN AND ANNIE WARAWA

by Larry A. Warawa

Demetrius (Dan) Warawa was born in the Plain Lake area, south of Two Hills, one of nine children. His parents, Theodore and Feshka, came to Canada from Austria (North Ukraine) in 1902. He received his schooling in Lanuke School. In 1930, he married Annie Tymkiw, one of five children of John and Catherine Tymkiw who came to Canada, from Austria, in 1907. Annie was born at Bushland, Alberta near Innisfree. She attended Lanuke School south of Two Hills, Alberta.

They moved to Lac Bellevue in 1932 where they homesteaded. Their son Larry was born in 1943. He attended Lac Bellevue school for his grades one to eight and his high school was completed at Glen Avon in St. Paul.

Dan and Annie Warawa farmed in the Lac Bellevue area up until 1974 at which time they built a home in St. Paul, Alberta.

STEVE WERTYPORA FAMILY

by Garry Wertypora

My mother's parents were both born in Poland. Her father, John Tchir was born on January 25, 1889 in Sokol, Poland and his wife, Helen (Ozechowski) was born on February 3, 1907 in Caliche, (the Mastisky region) of Poland. My grandfather died on Oct. 3, 1962 while living in St. Paul. My grandmother predeceased her husband 21 years earlier, on June 9, 1941, while they were living in Landonville, Alberta.

My mother, Ann Tchir was born Oct. 15, 1927 in Monkman (Angle Lake) Alberta. My mother attended school at Angle Lake, and besides going to school, she also raised her brothers and sisters, Mary, Molly, Taskka, Olga, Tillie, Harry, Joe, Fred, and Mike, after her mother passed away.

My father's parents emigrated to Canada from the Ukraine shortly after the turn of the century. My grandfather, Nick Wertypora was born in Manayutsi Chernawtsi in 1892. Grandmother, Anna



Three generations of Wertypora's, L-R: Garry, Steven, Stefan, David.

Popowich was born on Nov. 21, 1881 in the same village. My Grandfather came to Canada in 1908, and after marrying Anna Popowich in July of 1914, began farming near the Beavallon Ferry.



Ann and Steve Wertypora on Wedding Day Nov. 12, 1944.



Nick Wertypora Family 1924, L-R: Victoria, Nick, Ann, Jean, Anthony, Mary, Annie with Stefan on knees.

My father had three brothers and four sisters. They were Jean, Mary, Victoria, Annie, Alex and Anthony.

My father Stefon, was born on Jan. 5, 1923 near Lafond, Alberta. He attended school firstly at Champlain, then Chesterville. Later he worked at a Chemical plant in South Bend, Alberta. He later hauled freight with horses to a farm near St. Paul.

My parents, Stefon and Ann were married on Nov. 12, 1944. They moved to a farm in Lac Bellevue (N.W. 9-56-9-4) in 1946.

From this union were born eight children; they are:

Shirley Ann — married Robert Michaud of Mal-laig — they have two girls they now live in Delta, B.C.

Garry — married Ingrid Nelson from Celista B.C. we have two boys and reside in St. Paul. Victoria — Deceased.

Beverly — Deceased.

Tony Alex — Deceased.

Kenneth — married Marilyn Jergenson of Salt Lake City, Utah. They have one girl and live in Utah.

Trefon Wayne — Still single.

Lorna — married Kumen Sutton of Surrey, B.C. They have two boys and live in Langley, B.C.

The four older children attended Lac Canard School to 1962, when we moved to St. Paul. My mother then worked at the St. Theresa Hospital in St. Paul and later became a Sunday School teacher at Cardston, Alberta. She passed away on November 9, 1979.

My father presently resides in St. Paul, Alberta.

WILKINSON FAMILY

by H. Wilkinson

My parents Herbert Wilkinson and Emma Conolly were married in Vancouver, B.C. in September 1910 and lived there until May 1916, where my brother and I were born. We then moved to Mother's parents place, the Jim Conolly's at Lafond, Alberta on account of Father's ill health.

Father filed on a homestead about 8 miles South of St. Paul in about the year 1918 but we did not live on it until the Spring of 1920, when we moved to stay. There were only two of us boys in the family. Myself, Herbert James (Bert) and brother Robert John (Jack). When we first moved to the



Wilkinson Family 1935, Jack, Mr. and Mrs. H. Wilkinson & son Herbert.



Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Wilkinson 50th Wedding Anniversary 1960.

homestead there was no road to St. Paul but the railroad had arrived that year, so my father and mother's two brothers, Alex and Dan Connolly, soon made a road to J.K. Johnstons which was about half way to town. The Johnstons by the way were our closest neighbors at that time. We used to travel to Grandpa and Grandma Connolly's place quite often. After some time my brother and I stayed there and went to Big Fish Lake School as there was no school near us on the homestead. The distance from the homestead and our Grandparent's place was about ten miles.

Our school named Johnston School later changed to Many Lakes. I believe it was some time in the late nineteen twenties the Local Board at that time got the name of the school changed to Many Lakes, which was opened the first of May 1924. My brother and I were some of the first pupils. It was a summer school only. Our first teacher, Mr. Robert Harrison, who taught us for three years, was a university student so we had short terms. We were fortunate in having school at all, as there were very few children. I believe we started with seven pupils. Namely: Dorothy and Huntly Johnston, Alice, Archie, and Lloyd Mclean, my brother Jack and myself, Bert Wilkinson, but more came a short time later. I believe they started to organize the school district about 1922. As close as I can remember the first members of the board were Herbert Wilkinson, Kenneth Johnston and Albin Talbourdet. Mr. Johnston being Secretary hence, the name Johnston School, because the Department did not accept the chosen name or names picked by the local board. The school was built of logs mostly by my father, Herbert Wilkinson, my two Uncles, Alex and Dan Connolly, Kenneth Johnston, Albin Talbourdet and Robert Nieberding. When my father and my two uncles Alex and Dan started in they had a section of land namely; south half of section 12 and north half of section 1 township 57, range 10. Alex Connolly was a 1914 - 18 war veteran so he got a $\frac{1}{2}$ section of land. They fenced it all in as quickly as

possible, fencing one quarter for sheep and started to raise sheep. Had some trouble with coyotes but as the county settled, stray dogs became a real problem so eventually quit raising sheep.

About 1927, the Connolly's decided to go elsewhere so my father had the whole farm to look after, however; by that time my brother and I were getting old enough to help so we got along O.K. We depended on milk cows and beef cattle and as time went on we cleared and broke some land, that being quite difficult as there was lots of bush and rocks, with horses being the only source of power.

By this time people were coming into the district so we had lots of neighbors and everybody was getting some land under cultivation and then the dirty thirties. Somehow we got along O.K. as everybody milked some cows, fed a few pigs and kept chickens for eggs.

Our first homestead house was built on the east side of a little lake where we lived until 1927 then we moved into my uncle Alex Connolly's on the West side of the same little lake, which by the way they had vacated and moved to Edmonton. Uncle Alex had lost his left arm in the war so was not able to stand the hard work of the homestead any longer.

We lived in that house which was bigger than the original on the East side for about ten years. Grandfather Connolly built a house up off the north end of the same little lake where he and Grandmother retired from the farm in the Lafond district. Grandmother passed away in 1930 and Grandfather in 1936.

We then, about 1937, moved into their house which was much better than the others, it being of frame, the other two were log. My Mother and Father lived there until they retired in St. Paul in 1951 at which time we all sold out. My brother Jack also moved and retired with them as he was not very well. Jack passed away in July 1955. My Father, in June of 1964 and my Mother in January 1971.

My mother always was a great gardener even up to the last few years. While on the farm every



Homestead Home 1920, Mr. and Mrs. H. Wilkinson with son Herbert Jr. and Jack.

year she had a good big vegetable garden and literally dozen of flowers and she knew the name of every one of them and never tired talking about them.

In March of 1942, Mary Boorse whose home was south of Ashmont and I were married in the Ashmont United Church and we made our home in the house which was built by Alex Connolly, on the West side of the little lake which I spoke of earlier. We lived there for six years and in that time had two daughters, Lenora, born in July 1943 and Eunice born in September 1945. Both were born in the St. Theresa Hospital in St. Paul.

In 1947, we moved to a home of our own, on our own farm, about six miles south-west of St. Paul and in November 1950 our oldest boy James was born in the St. Theresa Hospital in St. Paul.

We did not stay there very much longer as the roads in the district were not being improved. It was almost impossible to get to the school, except by saddle horse, and the road to St. Paul was impassible about six months of the year and the County would not do anything on them. At that time our oldest daughter Lenora had been going to school for about a year and a half, in which time there were no qualified teachers, only Supervisors. So we decided to do something about it and try elsewhere.

In March of 1951 we moved to Bremner, where Frank Boorse, one of Mary's brothers lives and I worked at odd jobs for a while worked with the Department of Highways, Bridge Division for almost a year, then in May 1952, started working for the Alberta Wheat Pool at Bremner, finally getting on permanent at Minburn in August of 1953 at which place our youngest boy Kenneth was born in April 1957. I retired from there in 1974 and we moved to Mannville. We bought a new trailer home and a couple of lots. So here we intend to stay as the family are all living close to here. The oldest girl and oldest boy both living south of Vermilion. The youngest boy lives in Vermilion and the second girl is living near Bawlf.

MR. HENRY WILLER AND MRS. MARGARET (WILLER) PERRY

as told to Mary Stasyk by Mrs. George Perry

Henry Willer emigrated to Canada from Germany in 1927, with his sister and brother-in-law Mr. and Mrs. Frank Lanferman.

In 1928, Mr. Henry Willer took a homestead in St. Paul de Metis. N.E. 1/4 6-57-9-4.

Margaret Bruns was born in Neuvres Germany, on December 5, 1901. In 1927, Margaret emigrated to Canada, first settling in Englefeld, Saskatchewan, when she took employment. In 1928, Margaret then came to St. Paul de Metis and worked for

the Neveu's, J. Belzil's, D. Joyal and also at the St. Paul Hospital.

Henry Willer and Margaret Bruns had known each other in Germany. In Canada their courtship continued and they were married in St. Paul de Metis at the Roman Catholic Church in 1930.

After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Willer both worked at the Browning farm in Rife, Alberta. During their employment as farm help they were able to save a few extra dollars and with that they bought a few cows and chickens, a team of horses was also bought from R. Neiberding. They then moved on to the homestead that was bought in 1928 and made their home there.

In 1938, Mr. and Mrs. Willer adopted a beautiful 18 month old daughter and named her Eva. Eva attended Many Lakes School till the school was closed down for lack of teachers, then to school in St. Paul.

In 1944, Henry Willer passed away very suddenly. Mrs. Willer and daughter Eva, continued farming until 1953 when they sold the farm and moved into St. Paul.

Eva married Albert Doucet in 1953, have 4 children. Mrs. Willer took employment as a housekeeper in St. Paul.

In 1954, Mrs. Henry Willer married George Perry of St. Paul. George Perry was laid to rest in 1961, and Mrs. Perry still resides in St. Paul.

THE WIRSTA FAMILY

by Fred Wirsta

John Wirsta was born in July of 1888. He came to Canada from the Ukraine in July of 1907. He came over by ship. Then he worked his way and travelled some by train to Alberta. He worked for a store in Vermilion. He would travel with horses and wagon. He would trade groceries with farmers for grain.

John then purchased a homestead in the Stoney Lake area. The land description was S.W. 14-56-8-W4. He then cleared the land and farmed it with horses.

In his travels to Vermilion he met Helen Yachimovich and they got married in 1915. They raised ten children. They are Mary Yaremkevich of Edmonton, Nancy Mudryk of St. Paul, Dan Wirsta of St. Paul, Steve Wirsta of Calgary, William Wirsta of Calgary, Katie Richards of Clark Lake Michigan, U.S.A., George Wirsta of Terrace, B.C., Fred Wirsta of Elk Point, Rose Ahern of Fort McMurray, and Irene James of Kitimat, British Columbia. Two of their sons served in the Second World War. They lost three children.

John was an active member in the community. He was in the Capitol School Board committee. Also he helped to build the Stoney Lake Hall.



The John Wirsta family.

He would work for farmers to get seed for his land. He also worked for the Municipality on the road. He farmed in the Stoney Lake area until his son Fred took over.

John passed away July 12, 1960. Helen passed away January 31, 1978. Their son Fred had rented out the land and went working in Calgary. There he met his wife Paula. They got married May 20, 1960. We moved back in the fall of 1960. And started farming again in the Spring of 1961. We still threshed the grain with the threshing machine. It was some years later before we got a combine. We have seven children. Annette, Patsy, Joyce, Ronald, Gail, Kevin, and Roseann.

In March of 1967, our house burnt down. We saved very little. All of our relations, neighbors and friends were very good to help out with everything. We then had to build a new house in 1968.

Fred is still farming and doing carpenter work. Some of our children joined the 4-H and have been



The Fred Wirsta family.

in it for four years. They travel by bus to school in Elk Point.

Dan Wirsta was born at Lake Eliza, Alberta, October 22, 1921. He attended school at the age of seven, at the little country school known as the Capital School. This school was used for teaching children five days a week. On Saturday or Friday nights, it was used for holding dances. On Sundays it was used for church. After church service they would play baseball. At the age of fifteen, Dan left school in 1936, and went working for farmers. He worked through winter months, six days a week and ten hours per day. He worked for room and board and for \$7.00 per month.

In 1942, Dan was called to the Second World War. He served in the army from August 20, 1942, to April 26, 1946. He got married to Anne Mudryk while he was serving in the army. He got married on February 12, 1944. After he was discharged from the army he went working for the farmers that year. In 1947, he started farming on his own. His farm was one mile west of Stoney Lake. He purchased $\frac{1}{2}$ a section of land through the Department of Veterans Affairs. He had two boys on the farm. James and Jerry, that are staying in St. Paul at the present time. He stayed on the farm until October 13, 1954, at which time he lost the use of both legs, being confined to a wheelchair. Dan hung on to the farm until July of 1961, and moved into town, in St. Paul. Dan stayed in the hospital from October 13, 1954 to June 1955.

He took a bookkeeping course and has been bookkeeping for a number of firms. His hobbies are crocheting, fixing lawnmowers or any air-cooled engines, helping others in filing income-tax returns, and doing leather craft.

MR. and MRS. LEWIS WOOD (GOSSELIN)

by Mrs. Freda Wood

Freda Olga Doris Wood (Gosselin) nee Hauzenberger, was born in Red Deer, Alberta on October 30, 1912. My parents Edward and Freda Hauzenberger came to Canada in 1912 from London, England, but were born in Switzerland, Dad at Interlaken and Mom at Berne.

There were four in our family, Mary, Fred, Maude and myself.

My parents were plucky, industrious, farseeing and strict. As an example: A room was rented for me at the Ursuline Convent when I went to University. The Sisters there and in St. Paul should be mentioned for their paintaking endeavors. Sister Jeanne du Portugal of St. Paul was an inspiration.

At University (Normal School) we studied 14 subjects. For me it proved very interesting, enjoyable and challenging. Never a dull moment! I have lived to thank those dedicated professors.

My first school was Alain S.D. #2793, where I taught for 5 years, Grades one to eight, 35 to 40 pupils. Here is where I met and married Emile Gosselin.

During the summer of 1936, we moved to a homestead in Many Lakes, about 1½ miles from the school. There was a small log house there, to which the neighbors helped build a good sized addition. This was plastered and stuccoed.

Micheal Leslie was born, Jan. 10, 1940 and Freda Karen came on Feb. 18, 1944.

We lived in the Many Lakes area for nine years.

In 1945-1946, I was hired by the Athabasca School Division #12 to teach Grades I to IX at South Athabasca. Emile was unwell and passed away in the fall.

With the signing of Peace many veterans returned from overseas. The next year I met and married Lewis (Bill) Wood, a war veteran who had served in the Canadian Royal Engenieres, for 4½ years. We lived on a farm. He adopted Micheal and Freda Karen and helped educate them. Bill and I then had Holly, Robin and Lorne.

Leslie has his Bachelor of Education degree and Occupational Guidance Councillor Certificate. He has been a successful High School Teacher and Principal. Now he owns his own business, "Land-ing Insurance and Realty in Athabasca, Alberta. He and his wife Connie have three children, Rhonda, Warren and Tracy. Rhonda married David Guay, February 14, 1981.

Freda Karen was a Dental Hygienest. She is married to Joe Werenka (son of Adam Werenka of Two Hills). They have 2 girls and 2 boys. They live in American Falls, Idaho, USA.

Holly is married to Steve Yuretiga of Grassland. They have a family of 1 girl and 2 boys.

Roben and his wife Edythe live in Nelson, B,C, where he is a Recreation Director there.

Lorne and his wife Hazel live in Athabasca, Alberta. He works at "The Echo" our weekly newspaper.

Bill and I are still living in Athabasca.



Mr. and Mrs. Emile Gosselin and children: Micheal and Freda Karen taken in summer 1944.

METRO P. WOROBEC

by Rose Worobec

Metro P. Worobec was born Feb. 23, 1934 at Lac Bellevue to Mr. and Mrs. Peter Worobec. In 1944 at the age of 7 years he began going to Beela School which he attended for the first two years, later transferring to Henley School.

Metro remembers the hard times his parents and neighbors endured. He helped his father on the farm from plowing the land with horses, to cutting wood for heat. When it was time to get ready for the winter season Metro used to cut as many as 15 loads then haul it home, and with the help of neighbors they'd set a day aside to saw these long rails into small blocks which then had to be split, (mostly by hand) to provide heat for the long winter months. This was not the end of the back breaking work as there were several other jobs that needed doing such as cleaning barns with a pitch fork, to repairing fences or even helping his mother in the garden. Work on the farm, as Metro remembers was endless.

At the age of approximately 10 years, Metro and other family members always looked forward to seeing their parents either go visiting neighbors or going to town as this was time to themselves. The corral was there and so were the cattle, and with some of the neighbor boys coming over, such as Bill and Mike Tymchuk the stampede was on. When Metro's parents would return home, they often wondered why the cows never gave any milk, however it didn't take too long before they realized they had the best rodeo stock in Lac Bellevue in 1944. Metro also remembers that when there was hard work there was also time for other sports. In these trying years hockey seemed to be the most popular sport in winter. Metro and some of his friends would get together first with shovels to



Metro and Rose P. Worobec.



Worobec Family: Top L-R: Leonard, Linda. Bottom L-R: Lynn, Lee.

clean snow off a slough then they'd cut curved willows to use as hockey sticks and if there were enough horses in the area, there were always pucks around.

In 1950, at the age of 16 years, Metro went to work for Emil Fundytus, a farmer in the Mannville area. The work was seasonal for approximately 6 years, but it involved pitching bundles during threshing time. In 1956, Metro got a job in St. Paul where he worked for St. Paul Foundry. It was at this time he had more time to spare so he started courting Rose Kotowich and the following year on July 27, 1957, Metro and Rose were married.

Metro and Rose spent their first three years of married life in St. Paul. In Oct. 1960 Metro and Rose purchased two quarters of land located N.W. 18-56-9-4 and N.E. 13-55-10-4 which formerly was owned by Harry Eskow. The land was quite level but rocky, however this seemed to be rather productive land. The house seemed rather small but Metro and Rose thought with a little work they'd build on to it. With the help of Bill Tymchuk, Metro started on his house, first beginning to dig out a basement. Metro and Rose added to the house by adding three bedrooms and a porch. With winter coming to an end Metro and Rose's house had been complete.

In early spring of 1961 Metro and Rose purchased their first tractor a 44 Massey Harris for \$2000.00. Slowly they began purchasing the other machinery necessary. Later they purchased a Massey 444 and then a John Deere, which made work

a lot easier. The first few years the crops were good and prices low. It was in 1966 that they bought their first threshing machine. Metro raised cattle and hogs. In 1969 Metro's health failed him when he had to go to University Hospital in Edmonton for back surgery, which took him away from his family for 3 months.

Metro and Rose have a family of 4 children consisting of 2 boys and 2 girls. Leonard born Oct. 10, 1957 and living in Edmonton. Linda born Feb. 23, 1959 married Ken Baker. They have 2 children, Sheila and Zachery, living in Edmonton. Lynn, born Feb. 19, 1960 also in Edmonton, and Lee, born Aug. 18, 1961 completed high school, but at present time at home.

Due to Metro's health, he had to cut back his farming as his back couldn't tolerate any strain. Through all hardships and poor health, Metro and Rose did their best by giving their children the schooling they wanted.

PETE AND PARASKA WOROBEK

by Rose Worobec

Pete Worobec was born in Slava, Alberta, son of Harry and Ducha Worobec in July of 1910. Here they lived for 16 years when in the fall of 1926, they moved to the Lac Bellevue district. The family which consisted of his Dad Harry, his mother Ducha, his grandfather Proch Worobec and his brothers and sisters.

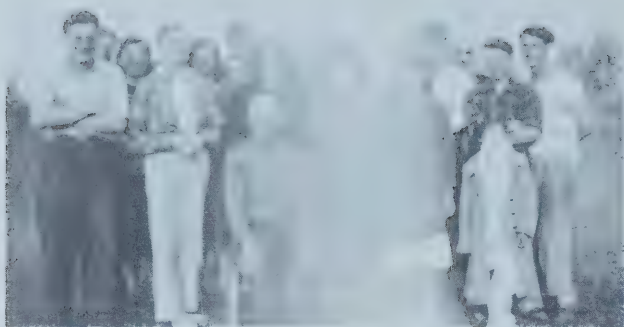
Here they purchased a quarter of land from Mr. Flora located N.E. 5-56-9-4.

In January of 1929, Paraska (nee Chybarak) arrived in Canada from Snetona Ukraine at the age of 25 years. She was born on May 31, 1904. At the time of her arrival, not having any family in Canada she came to visit (Harry and Ducha Worobec), who had sponsored her as they knew her family from the Ukraine.

After spending several months here, on Aug. 4, 1929, Pete and Paraska were married. They



Peter Worobec binding, while his wife Paraska, sons Walter and Metro bring him some lunch.



A typical day on July 12, St. Peters Day when neighbors would gather and celebrate. L-R: second from left, John Pankiw, Rose Pankiw, Mary Lesota, Paraska Worobec, unknown, Peter Worobec, Pauline Zacharuk, Mr. Lesota. Sitting: Steve Barlad, Elizabeth Shaka, Mary Worobec, John Shaka, Nick Chuil, Jerry Barlad, Walter Worobec.

farmed with horses till they moved to a new location.

They resided on this quarter of land for approximately 16 years when in 1945 he purchased 2 quarters of land, one from Gordon Galander, S.E. 31-56-9-4 and S.W. 31-56-9-4 from P. Semeniuk. At this time they had a family of 6 children, 4 boys and 2 girls. Here they had a fairly good house, so the only concern at this time was to spend more time being able to work up the land which they had, grey-wooded soil and very hilly land. It was at this time that Pete and Paraska lightened their work when they purchased their first used tractor — McCormick 1530 on lugs, from Mr. Holobovich for \$600.00.

Pete and Paraska's children attended Henley School for a few years, 4 miles away. This seemed a long way for the children to walk so they were transferred to Beela School which was 2 miles closer. The children attended this school till they



Taken in front of their home: L-R: sitting, Mr. Lesota, standing, Peter Worobec, sitting, Paraska Worobec, Mrs. Walter Gill holding 2 of her children, kneeling, Metro P. Worobec, Bottom row: Mrs. Gill's son Jerry, Nettie Worobec, Mrs. Gill's daughter Adaline, Mary Worobec.



Visiting neighbors L-R: Nettie Worobec, Mike Tymchuk, Ludwig Worobec, Walter Worobec, Bill Tymchuk, Metro P. Worobec.

got to the age where they were able to use horses and decided to go back to Henley School. At this time when the children were attending Beela School the teacher was Metro Marchuk. In Henley School they had several teachers, Mr. Meronick, Mrs. Mary Gadowski, Mrs. Dorothy Gadowski, and Mrs. Rose Bagan.

Pete and Paraska always led a busy life. It was very customary to celebrate all holidays that had Saints names, such as Pete celebrating St. Peters Day which was July 12. This meant there usually was one celebration a month.

It was in 1952 that Pete purchased his second tractor, a Massey 44. Having his sons at home to help him farming seemed to have been going rather smoothly. As the years started slipping by, his children started leaving home to start new lives for themselves. Pete and Paraska farmed this land until their retirement in 1974. He sold his land to the Community Pasture and bought a house in St. Paul. At the present time Pete and Paraska are still living, Pete being 71 years and Paraska 77 years. They had 6 children who are: Walter living in Slava area, Ludwig, Edmonton, Metro P. St. Paul, Mary Harrack, Victoria B.C., Emile — Edmonton and Nettie — Edmonton.

In August of 1979 the children, relatives, friends and neighbors gathered together to help Pete and Paraska celebrate the Golden Wedding Anniversary and wish them many more years together.

PROCH AND HOFFEA WOROBEK

by Rose Worobec

In 1903 Proch Worobec left his homeland and sailed to Canada, the new land of opportunities.

Along with his wife Hoffea, their children Nuffre, John, Annie, Harry, Harry's wife Ducha (nee Romanuik) and 1 daughter Mary about 2½ years old.

They homesteaded in Slawa, Alberta, farming there for a number of years. Nuffre and John left home, Annie married. They worked hard to keep their family alive, happy and healthy.

Then Hoffea died. Proch and his son Harry, Harry's wife Ducha and their children moved to



Wedding picture of Peter and Paraska Worobec. L-R: Back row: Mrs. Lesota, Paraska Worobec, Ducha Worobec (mother of groom) Harry Worobec, (father of groom) Peter Worobec (Groom), Mr. Proch Worobec (Grandfather of the groom).

Lake Bellevue area in the fall of 1926. They bought land from Mr. Flora the N.E. 3-56-9-4, a few years later bought the S.E. 4-56-9-4. His son Peter stayed on N.E. 3-56-9-4, while Harry, his wife, sons and daughters moved a mile east.



L-R: John Worobec and George Mysyniuk, cousins.

Harry's 4 sons are Peter of St. Paul, Bill deceased, John deceased, Dymetro of Edmonton.

His 4 daughters, Mary of Edmonton (Sikorski), Annie deceased (Dach), Kathleen of St. Paul, Katie (McCurley) of Gloster Mississippi, U.S.A.

Harry passed away in 1942. His wife Ducha moved later to Myrnam, Alberta. There she lived on her small pension cheque making new friends visiting relatives or neighbors in hospital to pass her time.

Later she got sick and moved to live with her son Peter and wife Paraska. But age is no challenge for sickness and Ducha passed away in 1968.



Katie Worobec daughter, Mrs. Ducha Worobec Mother, Paraska Worobec daughter-in-law.

NICKOLAS WOYCENKO AND FAMILY

by Daryl Woycenko

Mr. Nickolas Woycenko came to Canada in 1912 from Bukovina, a part of Austria. He worked in the Two Hills area until he bought a homestead in the Lake Eliza area in 1915. He purchased a quarter section (S.E. 24-56-9-4) for the sum of ten dollars. Here he met Ruth Melnychuk to whom he got married on June 1, 1916. Together they settled on the land Mr. Woycenko had previously bought.

Life was extremely hard. The nearest store was located in St. Paul, which was about twelve miles away. There were very few roads so transportation was difficult. Many times they walked to St. Paul to buy food and supplies with the little money they had. Mrs. Woycenko often gathered seneca roots which she dried and sold. This and Mr. Woycenko's trapping of muskrats, rabbits, etc. was their only source of income. Later, through careful saving, they purchased a cow and a calf for \$150. Horses that cost \$500.00 per pair, were the only source of transportation.

Together they lived in the Lake Eliza area for eleven years. Here they had two boys, John and Bill, and two girls; Ann and Jean. There were no hospitals and only one doctor for the whole area. Because of the financial hardships, Mr. Woycenko went out working in coal mines and on railroads. While he was at work, an epidemic of diptheria broke out. John, the oldest son, died in 1922 from the sickness.

In 1925, Mr. and Mrs. Woycenko left the Lake Eliza area. They moved to a farm near Glendon, Alberta. Mr. Nickolas Woycenko passed away on Jan. 6, 1970. Mrs. Ruth Woycenko now resides in Bonnyville, Alberta.

Mr. and Mrs. Woycenko raised a family of eight; four sons and four daughters. William and Metro of Bonnyville, John of Fort McMurray, Cornel of St. Paul, Ann Nesimiuk of Bonnyville, Jean Kerychuk and Marie Basiuk of Edmonton, and Lucille Moody of Vancouver.



Pat, Dave and Bruce Yakimec 1981.

Only recent residents of the land located next to the old Neiberdeen dairy farm, the Yakimec family thus far have thoroughly enjoyed acreage living.

The land, 17 acres, was purchased in 1977, and upon partial clearing, construction of the house was begun in August with the family moving in by May of 1978. Their home overlooks Surveyor Lake and features a sandy beach on the east shore.

Joseph met Lila (nee Broen) while he was working in the Alice Hotel in Camrose. They were married in 1955, and resided in St. Paul since then, excluding 2 years spent in Vermilion.

Their family consists of 2 daughters and 8 sons. Bruce the oldest boy is presently a motor vehicle sales rep. Patrick recently opened in partnership Henrick's Autobody Repair Shop. John is working towards his journeyman's papers in autobody. David has also started his own business with vending machines. Tim graduated from the University of Alberta and plans to teach music in the near future. Joann is at NAIT taking Dietary Technology and once finished plans to work in a hospital. James is finishing high school and wants to enter the University of Alberta faculty of Laboratory Medicine. Susan is in high school as well as Bill who plans to work in the autobody field. Mark the

THE YAKIMECS



The Joe Yakimec Family 1981, L-R: Bill, Susan, Mark, Joann, Tim, Jim, John.



Lila and Joe Yakimec 1981.

youngest is also in school, but already shows a great interest in electronics and his future plans are aimed toward this.

Joseph has enjoyed a number of occupations including refrigeration repair, instructing the same at SAIT in Calgary for a short time, and operating a drycleaning and laundromat facility. Presently business is involved with vending machines.

Joe and Lila are active in organizations including the Elks and Royal Purple, the St. Paul Flying Club, as well as the Lakeland Radio Club.

The Yakimecs are lucky to have their grandmother Nancy Yakimec, a long-time resident of St. Paul living near them, enjoying good health.

FRANK AND EILEEN YAKIMOWICH

by Eileen Yakimowich

Frank was born in Lake Eliza on Aug. 5, 1922 to Joseph and Mary Yakimowich and was brought up in that community. He has two daughters and one son, by whom he has two grandsons and three granddaughters. They all live in Edmonton. Frank moved to Edmonton in 1954 and was employed at Burns' Foods Ltd. for 19 years. Eileen was born on Nov. 11, 1931 in Brandon, Manitoba to Hilda Delorned and George Scott. She was brought up by her grandmother in South Junction, Manitoba and graduated at age 15 in 1947. Too young to enter teacher's college, she went to work in St. Vital Sanatorium and then at Di Cosimo's Chicken Inn in Winnipeg. There she met and married her first husband on Dec. 10, 1947. They then moved to North Battleford, Saskatchewan. Then on Dec. 25, 1949 she had a son John Richard who now resides in St. Paul. He is married to Joan Beauregard and they have 2 daughters. Eileen moved to Edmonton in 1960 and went to work at Canada Packers Ltd. In



Frank and Eileen Yakimowich.

1965 she met Frank and they were married on Nov. 11, 1971. On Aug. 29, 1973 they left Edmonton and moved to Lake Eliza to the old home place where Frank and his family were brought up. Frank being a fairly handy man, along with Eileen, fixed up the house, remodelled and modernized it and today it is the peaceful and scenic country home they both love and enjoy. Eileen is known as an animal lover, has 3 small dogs and 2 huge black persian cats. Frank is well known for his nice garden and is lovingly known as the district's practical joker and fibber.

Frank and Eileen are kept busy as they are employed in St. Paul cooking breakfast at the W & E Drive Inn Restaurant from 6 A.M. each day of the year.

YANITSKI FAMILY

by Russell Paziuk

Jacob Yanitski was born in the Ukraine in 1871, Lena Yanitski (nee Sosnowski) was born in Poland in 1874.

The family emigrated to Canada around the turn of the century and ended up at Round Hill, Alberta in 1901.

After a brief stay at Round Hill, the Yanitski family's next move was to the Myrnam district where they purchased a homestead. With the availability of homestead land in the Lac Bellevue area as late as the early 30's, Jacob decided that another homestead could well serve the purpose of his growing family of boys. October 14, 1932 saw Jacob file on a homestead at Lac Bellevue (S.E. 30-55-9-4), that would become son Peter's for sometime.

Jacob and Lena were blessed with nine children; they were: Walter 1896-1918, Mary Youzwishen 1898-1947, John 1902-1946, Nick 1914-1957, Joe born in 1907, Ann Chmiliar born in 1909, Pauline Kolada born in 1911, and Peter April 10, 1916.

Jacob Yanitski died in 1947 at the age of 76 and his wife Lena passed away in 1951 at the age of 77.

Peter was born in the Myrnam area and attended school there. After nine months of study at the Mundare Catholic Church, for the purpose of entering into priesthood, Peter returned to the Myrnam area and settled on the Lac Bellevue homestead shortly thereafter.

He married Renee Hyshka, a girl from the Glendon district, and they then farmed at Lac Bellevue for seven years. To the couple was born a son, Jerry.

In about 1940, the Lac Bellevue Yanitski homestead was sold to Wm Borchuk. Peter then moved to a farm in the Maloy district, and farmed there for approximately two years.

When Paul Oskiw's draying business became available in Peter's hometown of Myrnam, the temptation of returning home prevailed and Peter



Peter Yanitski — 1958.

Yanitski bought the business. After some time, Steve Lockaniuk bought Peter's draying business and Royal Park became Peter's home for six years, where he bought grain for the Alberta Pacific Co.

Peter then moved to Bonnyville and purchased the Strand Cafe. The Cafe burned while Peter was convalescing in an Edmonton Hospital, a result of frozen feet while on a Caraboo hunt.

The next two years were spent in a leased hotel business at Ardmore, Alberta. With experience gained in the Ardmore hotel business, Peter then purchased a share in Central Hotel in Bonnyville, and served as manager there for fourteen years.

Peter is now retired and living in Edmonton, Alberta.

JOHN AND KATIE YAREMKO

by Lloyd Yaremko

John Yaremko was one of the many immigrants who came to Canada prior to W.W. II.

He was born in 1905 to Jacob and Katie Yaremko in Zadawchiw, Ukraine. John Yaremko had two brothers and one sister. A younger brother contacted tuberculosis and died at an early age.

John started working out from the age of 8 years, to help support his family. By the time he was 12 years old, John was fairly well on his own. He worked for the priests and landlords. At first he started out as a chore boy and then as a horse trainer. A serious injury, while training horses, forced John to leave the job he was well skilled in.

When John was 23 years of age, he decided to emigrate to Canada. He left behind his mother, sister Mary and brother Peter in Ukraine. Mary and his mother continued to live in Ukraine and corresponded with John, in Canada, until their passing. John's brother, Peter, also stayed in Ukraine but disappeared during the Second World War. His last contact was when Peter was serving as an officer in the army stationed in Czechoslovakia. With

the help of John's Slavakian friends, he tried to locate his brother but the searches were all fruitless.

John survived his first years in the new land working in the forests of Northern Ontario. Later, he came to Alberta and worked on the farms in the Lloydminster area.

The depression set in and John was forced to look elsewhere for work. He travelled across Canada, twice, by train, in flat cars and box cars, searching for work. The unemployed men who travelled in groups took turns getting food for themselves at different stopping points. At one point, in Saskatchewan, John got off the train and the R.C.M.P. told him to get back on the train. Knowledge of English was limited and John could not explain to the officer what he wanted. The officer rather annoyed, struck him with a club and knocked him out. His friends got off the train and helped John back on.

At the end of the depression, John once again found work on the farms, this time in Mundare. Later on he moved to the Derwent area and worked on the Walchuk farms and the Chykaliuk farms. It was at Chykaliuk's that he met Mrs. Chykaliuk's first cousin, Katie Yaremko.

Katie Nahormiak was born April 14, 1907 to Thomas Nahormiak and Paraska (nee Solowan) at Zaloehi (Snatyn) in Ukraine. Katie had two sisters, Mary and Kalyna, and two brothers Nick and John. John died at two months and Nick at 7 years of age. Katie was the youngest child in the family. When Katie was 6 months old her mother passed away. Her older sisters, along with their father raised their infant. Tragedy struck when Katie was nine years old: her father passed away. Again the children had to rebuild their lives, this time without any parent.

In 1926, Katie decided she wanted a brighter future. She emigrated to Canada and travelled west to Kenora, Sask.

Katie found work in town for a month and then worked for the rest of the summer on the farm. Before winter set in, Katie returned to town and found work at a hotel and continued working there for a year. With her year's earnings she bought a ticket for her sister, Kalyna, to Canada. Kalyna arrived in Kenora, but finding her sister Katie had already left for Alberta, she left too.

Katie worked in Alberta on the farms of Peter Lukenchuk and Metro Nahormiak. She was working in the same area as John Yaremko and thus the two met.

John and Katie married in the fall of 1933 and worked together on the Nickolson farm, south of Derwent.

In the spring of 1934, they were hired by the Walchuks. Spring and summer was spent on the Walchuk farm and in October, John and Katie's first child, Anne, was born. At this time they de-

cided to start farming on their own. They made a contract to rent land from Metro Fesik in 1935. In the fall of that year, their first son, Peter was born.

With a family of two children, Katie and John were motivated to owning their own land. They took a brushland contract for \$25.00, for four years, from the C.P.R. in the Slava area. The land was located S.W. 25-54-8-4. Because they needed to be close to the C.P.R. land, they moved to a vacated house, owned by Mike Sheyka, which was only across the road.

In the spring they set about clearing enough land for a crop the following year. Along with the land clearing, John and Katie built a small log house and dug two holes in a hillside for a barn and a chicken coop. The walls for the barn and the coop were built of old railroad ties.

All was ready and the family moved on their own. With no crop that year, they had very little with which to survive the winter months ahead. John had five dollars for which they purchased an air-tight heater for their new home and a few basics like flour and sugar. Katie went to the neighbors and picked up screenings from a threshing machine, as they had no feed for their pigs. With the screenings, they fed the pigs until they were ready for market.

Year after year, John and Katie continued clearing more land and seeding it.

In the spring of 1939, their second son, Lloyd, was born. This was the year the contract with the C.P.R. expired. A good year it was, the crop yielded a thousand bushels. With the sale of the grain, John and Katie decided to purchase the land. The C.P.R. had it priced at twelve hundred dollars but John offered a thousand dollars, which they accepted.

With a family of three children the little log house was not big enough. In 1942, John bought a granary, built of 2" X 6" walls, added three bedrooms and a large porch. The 2" X 6" walls were insulated with wood shavings, making it a very warm home.

This home has since been purchased by the late Bill Romaniuk which has been moved to his farm and is presently occupied by his son Bobby.

The farmland which completely consisted of yellow sand was quickly depleted with several crops. This urged John and Katie to search for better farming land.

In 1947 they sold and bought Wm. Poloway's farms in the Lake Bellevue district. The land locations was N. 1/2 35-55-9-4. John and Katie were quite excited. They now had more land and plenty of bush to cut for firewood. Their children were only a quarter of a mile from Henley School.

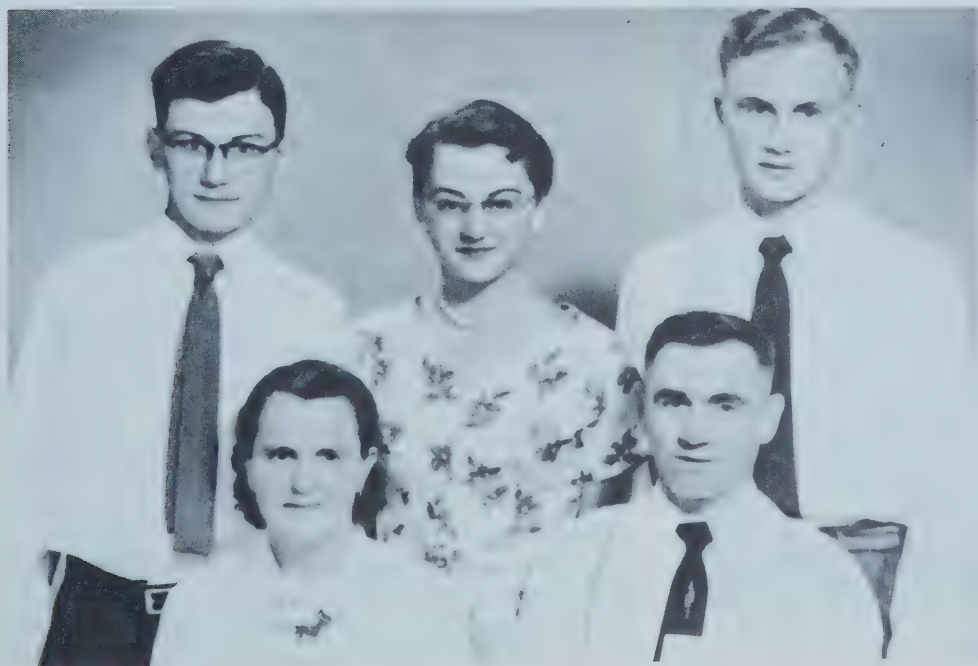
Tragedy struck on May 2, 1950, when the Yaremko home and belongings were destroyed by fire. They spent the summer in a granary and by winter, the shell for another home was erected. They occupied the new home immediately.

In 1956, their daughter Anne got married to Leo Kacherowski.

In 1960, Lloyd and Pete took over and rented the land from their parents.

In 1966, John and Katie sold their land to Mike and Mary Popowich. They moved to live with their son, Lloyd who was in the process of building a new home.

Until their retirement, John and Katie took active part in community affairs. They helped their neighbors as much as they could whenever the



The Yaremko family in the summer of 1955. Seated are: Katie and John Yaremko. Standing L-R: Lloyd, Anne and Pete.

need arose. John enjoyed fishing and spent his later years being very active in this sport.

Katie excelled in needlework. She cross-stitched, numerous wall hangings, cushion tops, pillow cases, dresser scarves and an entire covering for a chesterfield. She cross-stitched seven tablecloths with serviettes. One tablecloth took eight hours of needlework. She cross-stitched shirts and blouses.

Flowers and birds were her favorite subjects. Each child and grandchild has several pieces of her fine work.

In August of 1968, John passed away from Tetanus. Katie went to live with her daughter Anne, in Surrey, B.C.

In 1975, Katie moved to Edmonton and lived with her sister Kalyna Steblyk.

In July of 1979, Katie travelled to her native village in Ukraine. She thoroughly enjoyed her trip and visit with the surviving relatives and friends.

When St. Elia's Pipanko Manor, in Edmonton opened, Katie moved in. She now has her own apartment there.

Katie comes to visit her sons on the farm, very often. As a daughter of the soil, she especially enjoys helping us with gardening.

LLOYD YAREMKO

by the family

Lloyd Yaremko was born March 8, 1939 in Slava, Alberta. He is the youngest son of Katie Yaremko and the late John Yaremko. Lloyd has a



Lloyd and Emelia Yaremko pose with their children Lloyanne, Andrew and Thomas. 1980.

brother, Pete in St. Paul and a sister, Anne in Surrey, B.C.

He first attended the "Krasna Hora" School. His teacher was Miss Josephine Berezanski. Lloyd, then went to New Round Lake School. His second teacher was Mrs. Dvernychuk. Both schools were in the Slava area.

In 1947, his family moved to the Lake Bellevue district, where he attended the Henley School. Mrs. Mary Gadowski was his teacher for three years and for the remaining four years, Mrs. Dorathy Gadowski.

By then Lloyd was in Grade nine and had to attend the Myrnam School. Lloyd and the older children were bused in a half-ton panel. At that time there was no bridge across the North Saskatchewan River. Every spring and fall when it was impossible to cross by ferry or drive on the ice, the children crossed the river in a cable car. Lloyd attended school in Myrnam for one year.

Although Lloyd had not completed his high school, he continued his education through yearly night classes. Some of the courses he has successfully completed are Building Construction, Welding, Alberta Soils, Landscaping, Leadership, and First Aid. He also enjoys mechanics, electrical wiring, plumbing and woodworking.

As a child he recalls the great times he had playing hockey on the sloughs and softball near Lake Bellevue Hall.

He often remembers the 4-mile hike to the Post Office at Lake Eliza. Lloyd and his brother Pete, often went, in the evening, after work. It was fine walking when the moon was out but on dark nights, they had many hair-raising experiences. One never knew what one could meet.

In 1956, at the age of seventeen, Lloyd and Peter purchased the late Pete Gadowski's farm. The land location was S.E. 15-56-9-4 and S.E. 22-56-9-4.

Lloyd worked at Adam's Tire Shop in 1959-60. In 1960, Lloyd and Peter took over the operation of their parent's farm. The boys did mixed farming. They not only did grain farming but raised cattle, hogs, and turkeys. One year, with the help of their dad, they raised 500 turkeys.

An additional 3 quarters of land was purchased from Manoly Lakusta in 1963. One of these quarters is the farm site of Lloyd's. At the same time, Lloyd and Peter leased three quarters from Mike Lakusta.

In the summer of 1966, Lloyd built himself a workshop.

In the fall of 1966, Lloyd and Peter purchased Bill Fodchuk's quarter. They also bought another two quarters of Mike Lakusta's land they were already renting.

During the fall of that year, Lloyd undertook the construction of his new house.

On August 23, 1967, Lloyd went to insure the crop at 10:00 a.m. at the elevator. The agent told

him it was too late in the season for hail but it was entirely up to Lloyd. The next day, at 4:00 p.m. the S.E. 15 quarter was hailed out 90%.

The fall of 1969, was a bad one for the farmers. Frequent rains prevented the harvest of the crops. Lloyd and Peter combined their crops damp and were forced to buy a grain dryer. After drying their grain, they went custom drying. That year, they dried 70,000 bushels of grain.

In August of 1970, Lloyd married Emelia Linkiewicz of St. Paul.

Emelia was born August 9, 1947 to Annie and the late Emil Linkiewicz. She has an older sister, Jeannette and a younger sister Rose.

Emelia attended the country, one-room Lac Canard school for two years. After her father's death, her mother transferred the children to St. Paul. She attended school in St. Paul and graduated in 1966. Emelia attended the University of Alberta and received her Bachelor of Education degree. After teaching at Grandin, in Edmonton for a year, she moved to St. Paul. In 1970 she was employed in St. Paul.

Lloyd worked at Coop Implements from 1970-76. In 1974, Lloyd and Emelia built a two and a half stall garage.

In 1980, the machine shed was erected by contractors. This was the first building put up by contractors — all the others were done by Lloyd.

Lloyd has been an active member in various organizations. In 1963 Lloyd was appointed delegate to the United Farmers of Alberta Convention in Calgary. He held executive offices for the U of A Co-op, Kinsmen Club, Progressive Conservative Association, Highway 881 Association, and the Co-op Implements Depot Committee. At present he holds a position as director for St. Michael's Cemetery and the Lake Bellevue Community Recreation Association.

Emilia had been active in the Kinette Club of St. Paul. She has also served in various positions in the St. Paul and District Ukrainian Dance Club.

Lloyd and Emelia have three children: Lloyanne (1973), Andrew (1975), and Thomas (1979). They enjoy their life on the farm.

PETER YAREMKO

by Emilia Yaremko

Peter Yaremko, son of Katie and the late John Yaremko, was born Sept. 29, 1935, at Slava, Alberta. He has an older sister Anne Kacherowsko in Surrey, B.C. and a younger brother Lloyd in Lake Bellevue.

He spent his early childhood years on the farm in the Slava area. Peter recalls vividly the happy moments spent playing in the large meadows, in the sand dunes, and near the railroad tracks that ran through the north side of their yard. He also



Peter Yaremko, stands in front of a D-8 caterpillar. He operated it, 1968, while working for Tarapaski Construction.

recalls his first days at Zora School, Krasna Hora School and New Round Lake School.

At the age of 9 years, Peter started working in the fields with a team of horses. By the time he was 12 years old, he was capable of handling all of the field work. At this age, he also went working with a threshing crew.

In 1947, his family moved to the Lake Bellevue district. There, he attended Henley School until Grade nine. Peter began Grade ten at Myrnam School, but help was needed at home on the farm, and Peter quit school. While working on the farm he earned extra money by trapping muskrats. Peter helped his younger brother Lloyd through three years of school by providing the finances needed for books and clothes. He continued working on the farm until 1955.

In 1956, Peter decided to go out and fulfill a dream he always had. From the time he saw the first caterpillar tractor in 1948, cutting down a hill by Henley School, he longed for the day that he would operate one. In the spring, Peter left for Edmonton to work for Fekete Construction, on a small caterpillar.

After one year in Edmonton, Peter moved on to Rocky Mountain House to work for Semanchuk Construction. He again operated a caterpillar.

From 1958 until now (1981), he has continuously worked on the cats, for the County of St. Paul and for Tarapaski Construction. In the late 60's, Pete worked on both approaches to the Myrnam bridge, clearing the banks on the north side of the river, was one of his toughest jobs.

In the fall of 1966, Peter moved on his own farm, across the road from lake Bellevue Hall. This

land was purchased by him and his brother Lloyd in 1956 when they took up a partnership in farming. Peter and Lloyd farmed together from 1956-1970 when in 1970 the partnership was dissolved.

In 1977, they resumed their partnership and are still continuing with it.

Peter continues to live on the farm. He enjoys looking after his herd of cows and in his spare time he is often seen on some lake fishing.

MR. AND MRS. ALEX YETTAW

by their daughters

Alex migrated to Canada from the state of Michigan, U.S.A. in the spring of 1905, with his wife and two children. They camped around Edmonton for a few months, before moving to the Foisy district.

After locating the site of his new home, Mr. Yettaw returned to Edmonton via the common route in those days, the North Saskatchewan River. He returned and built his first log shack, with a sod roof and two half-windows.

The family moved to the homestead in November, via C.N.R. to Vegreville and then via a covered wagon, with Mr. J. Berlinguette as a driver. They arrived to find it had snowed. They could not find the log shack in the dark, so accepted the hospitality of Mr. Saunders. In the morning, the shack was found and the family settled in for the long winter, hunting and trapping to obtain enough food.



Alex and Minnie Yettaw — 1964.



Family gathering at Alex Yettaw's homestead — Standing: L-R: Charlie Desaulniers, Wm. Smith, Otto Yettaw, Alex Yettaw, Frank Desaulniers. Sitting: Irene Yettaw, Agnes Smith, Edith Smith (Minnie Yettaw's sister) Lula Yettaw, Mrs. Minnie Yettaw, Baby Jency and Flossie Yettaw.

The first year they plowed the land with oxen. Mrs. Yettaw said there were so many flies and mosquitoes, that to keep the oxen moving while her husband was plowing, she would walk ahead of them with a smudge pot of smoke and they would follow, to be in the smoke. She told of how Mr. Yettaw would walk to Edmonton or Vegreville looking for a job, and she would be left at home with the children for months at a time.

Their oldest son Otto would go to B.C. with his dad also to work in lumber camps. They had no money to get train fare, so they would ride on freight cars. After many hardships in farming, they finally were able to build a new house and farm buildings. Mr. and Mrs. Yettaw farmed many years in the district of Foisy and raised a family of 9 children. They retired in St. Paul, Alta. in 1953. Mr.



Yettaw Girls: Flossie, Irene, Lula, Margaret, Virginia, Arlie — 1979.

Yettaw passed away in 1966 at the age of 94 and Mrs. Yettaw passed away at the age of 92 in 1978.

Mr. and Mrs. Yettaw's nine children are:

Flossie married Joseph Austin. They had four children: Billie, Donald, Elaine and Lee. Flossie lives in Ranfurly, Alberta.

Otto Yettaw farmed in the Foisy district. He lived with his parents till they moved to St. Paul. He continued farming until he also moved to St. Paul in 1967, where he is still living. Otto never married.

Irene married John Wollam. They had two children, Ted and George. They moved to Hood River, Oregon.

Lula married Henry Bolduc. They lived in Edmonton for some time and then moved to Vancouver, B.C. They had three children — Cecile, Leo and Joey. Lula passed away in 1979.

Jency passed away in 1933 at the age of 20 years.

Arle married Adrian Robinson. They bought the Aladin Foisy Store. They have five children: Shirley, Marcel, Richard, David and Joanne. They now live in St. Paul.

Margaret married Hormidas Paradis. They farmed in the Foisy area for 31 years. They have four children: Jeannette, Edmond, Lionel and Dennis. Margaret and Hormidas now live in St. Paul.

Jack married Bella Olexiuk. They have five children — Kenneth, Gloria, Diane, Louise and Sheila. Jack and Bella still live on the farm in the Foisy district.

Virginia married Bill Chornohus. They have four children; Ronald, Barbara, Barry and Darlene. Virginia and Bill now live in St. Paul.

JACK YETTAW FAMILY

by Bella Yettaw



Wedding picture of John and Bella Yettaw.



John and Bella Yettaw's family picture — Back row: Ken, John (father) Bella (mother) Louise. Front row: Diane, Gloria, Sheila.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Yettaw have lived in the Foisy District for many years. Mr. Jack Yettaw was born in 1922. He lived and farmed with his father, Mr. Alex Yettaw, till 1941, when he met and married Bella Olixuik of Vilna, Alberta. They were married in Lafond Parish Church on November 4th, 1941. With them in their Wedding Picture are Annie and Myron Osadchuck, Bella's mother and step-father. Father, Sam Olexiuk, was killed in the Drumheller Coal Mines when there was a cave-in in 1923. Mrs. Jack Yettaw was only two years old at the time of the mishap.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Yettaw raised a family of 5 children, 1 son, 4 daughters.

Ken married Gloria Palivada from Lake Eliza, Alberta.

Gloria married Russell Murray from Ashmont, Alberta.

Diane married Eric Theroux of Two Hills, Alberta.

Louise married Jesses Bisson of St. Paul, Alberta.

Their youngest daughter Sheila is in Regional School in St. Paul in Grade 12. They have 10 grandchildren. They still farm in the Foisy District. It will be 40 years of married life in 1981.

GLORIA AND KENNETH D. YETTAW

by Ken Yettaw

Kenneth Dwight Yettaw was born in St. Paul, Alberta, to John and Bella (nee Olexiuk) Yettaw on May 19th, 1943. He took grade one in 1950 in Foisy School and then attended Lafond School until 1960.

In February of 1960, he met Gloria Paliwoda at a square dance at Lafond School Gymnasium. They dated intermittently until they were engaged on June 22nd and married October 26th of 1963. Ken built a house on N.E. 29-56-11-W4th, one and a half miles south of Foisy Store. This was his father's first farm. Their first child, Donna Marie, was born December 16th, 1964. John Dwight was born March 12th, 1968 and Tracy Louise was born February 27th, 1969.



Yettaw Fishing trip to Fork Lake 1976. L-R: Steven Yettaw, Donna Yettaw, Tracy Yettaw, John Yettaw, Glen Paliwoda.

During these years, Ken completed his plumbing apprenticeship while working for St. Paul Plumbing and Heating. When they shut down in 1967, Ken started his own plumbing business called "Yettaw Plumbing Ltd." which he ran from his home.

In 1971, they moved to Whitehorse, Yukon, where Stephen Alexander was born on March 27th. The Yettaw family lived there for four years. They missed country living very much and finally moved back to Foisy in April, 1975. Ken went to work as Utilities Officer for the County of St. Paul.

In April of 1980, they sold their land to Gordon Bystrom. Ken and Gloria Yettaw purchased some land from Henry Lanferman and moved six miles east of Lafond. They bought an older home from Laurent Duchesneau and moved it to the home site where they refinished it. They plan to expand their beef herd and eventually to depend on the farm completely for a living.

BEN YORK

by Henry Hanson

Ben York came from U.S.A. to Edmonton in 1902. He installed his family there and journeyed



Ben York who Homesteaded S.W. 36-56-11-4 in approximately 1904. Pierre Brault now lives on this land.

eastward, looking for land. He squatted on the S.W. 36-56-11-4, where Pierre Brault now lives, before it was surveyed. He probably chose this because of the nearby lake. After some time, the surveyors came along and then he was able to file for this homestead.

In 1908, he had to go to Edmonton, to the Department of Public Works, to pay his taxes — \$2.00. He had to do this as the land in these whereabouts was not yet divided into municipalities, with a local board. The receipt showed that Ben York's land belonged to the Local Improvement District No. 219, and was signed by the cashier and the Deputy Minister. It really was quite a problem to pay your taxes in 1908.

Shortly after his arrival in Edmonton, Ben had the great misfortune of losing his wife. She died before reaching the homestead. A son quite young at the time, also died in Edmonton. Ben was left with two daughters, Carrie two years old and Bertha 6 years old at the time.

As there were no schools close to the homestead, the girls went to mission schools, one being at Onion Lake.

Carrie later married Henry Hanson in September, 1916. They raised a family of five daughters and one son: Evelyn, Helen, Lorna, Mabel, Doris, and Alan. She passed away in 1972.

Bertha never married and died in the Killam Auxiliary Hospital in 1978.

Ben York passed away in 1940 in Lafond at home, on the farm, at approximately 80 years old. He was buried in the Foisy Cemetery.

GOVERNMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

RECEIPT FOR TAXES A No. 25692

*Received from: *Ben York*

of the sum of *2.00* DOLLARS
being amount due LOCAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT No. *219*
year *1908* on the following lands:

FILED at EDMONTON this *5* day of *May* A. D. 19*08*

Counted and *610.000* CASHIER
DEPUTY MINISTER

DIANE AND BARRY YURKOWSKI

by Diane Yurkowski

Diane Linda Yurkowski is the oldest daughter of Mike and Helen (nee Niedzielski) Tymofichuk. She has one sister, Debbie Ann Hrabec. Diane attended grades 1-9 at Glen Avon School in St. Paul and then high school at the St. Paul Regional High and graduated in 1973. After graduation, she



Diane and Barry's wedding day. October 11, 1975.

moved to Edmonton and was employed as a clerk Typist.

On July 24, 1974, Diane met her future husband, Barry Yurkowski. Barry was born April 27, 1948 to Joe and Molly (nee Worchester) Yurkowski. He is the second oldest son from a family of five. They lived in the community of Goodridge. Barry attended school grades 1-9 at Therien, grade 10 at Mallaig and grade 11 at Glendon. After quitting school, he worked at various jobs in B.C. and eventually decided to enter the field of carpentry. It was at that time, that he came back to Alberta.

On October 11, 1975, Diane and Barry were married in St. Paul at the Roman Catholic Church.

After the wedding, they made their home in Edmonton for 3 years and then decided that they would rather live in the country. They bought a 1/4 section of land (S.W. 12-56-9-W4), in March of 1978, a half mile south of Diane's parents and in the summer of 1979, built their home and moved into it in December of that year.

Diane is presently employed as an admitting clerk at the St. Theresa Hospital in St. Paul. Barry is presently employed at the St. Paul Regional High School as a custodian.

HISTORY OF THE YUSCHYSHYN FAMILY

as recalled by Pete and Nettie Yuschyshyn

John and Eva got married in Winik, Austria. They had 4 children, Mary, Peter, Bill and Katie,



Yuschyshyn Family 1927. L-R: Bill, John, Steve, Eva, Katie, Cecelia, Jean.

born in the village of Michlaskiw. Peter and Mary both started going to school in the village.

Dad (John) was working on the railroad, carpenter jobs or anything available. After he built a new home in Michlaskiw he opened his own shoe shop in his home. He made new boots and repaired old ones. Anything that had to do with ladies, men's and childrens' shoes kept him very busy in his shoe shop.

Mother, before she was married, was brought up by a Doctor's family (name lost). She trained to be a nurse specializing as a mid-wife. Also she worked in a tobacco factory. When she got married she helped people when she was needed. She stayed home also and assisted her husband in his shoe shop.

In the year 1912, John's brother Sam left Austria and emigrated to Canada, settling at Innisfree, Alberta. Uncle Sam and Dad (John) corresponded and Sam praised Canada as a good place with an abundance of good land to be had as homesteads, plenty of firewood (this was in great demand in the old country — it was hard to get firewood in our village).

In the year 1913 another brother, Mike, decided to go to Canada. Uncle Mike sold all his property in Austria and came to Canada. He wrote to John that he got a 1/4 section of land from the Canadian government upon which he built a 2 room home. This piece of land was in the Lake Eliza area. Mike had initially stayed a short time with his brother in Innisfree. Mike and his wife, Tinka (sister to Eva) brought 3 children with them to Canada, Helen, Julia and Stanley. He had a cow and a few other necessities for the family.

Mike and Sam convinced John to come to Canada also. Mom (Eva) and Dad (John) decided to leave Austria. Paperwork completed, they left for Canada in June, 1914. In the meantime there were rumors of impending war. So they packed their family and a few belongings (those they could manage to take with them) and they sold their home and garden and got some deposit money on some of the land. This gave them enough money to come to Canada. They came on a freighter ship, the Pa-



Lake Eliza Area Neighbors Mid 1940's. Back L-R: Barbara Kostyniuk, Mary Ezak, Natalia Yuschyshyn, Stelia Yuschyshyn, Jean Yuschyshyn (with baby in arms), Stanley Yuschyshyn, Mike Yuschyshyn, John Ezak. Front L-R: Henry Kostyniuk, Elsie Kostyniuk, Danny Kostyniuk.

lanza (uncertain of spelling). The crossing took 3 weeks to cross the ocean. Plans were made to come on a passenger ship which was leaving a week later. The agent told the family to go, not wait, as war was eminent. The war broke out when we were approximately a little past halfway across the ocean. This was very lucky because if we were not half way across, they may have made the ship turn back and return due to the war. The ship docked in Halifax and then the family came to Innisfree by train. We arrived in Innisfree on July 7th, 1914.

John, Eva and family, stayed with Uncle Sam until fall (1914) as there was no ferry and therefore no way to cross the river until the water froze. In the meantime, Dad worked for carpenters, farmers or anyone needing help. He got some grain, flour and a little money. When freeze-up came we moved to Uncle Mike's and stayed there all winter. Two families in a two room house! 11 of us under one roof. John also brought a cow. The family caught rabbits and partridges for food. Rabbit skins were used to put on our feet to keep them warm. During that winter, Dad got logs and cleared a piece of land to put a garden in the following year. In the meantime we shared garden space with Uncle Mike. Spring and summer 1915 saw efforts to build a house and the family moved in the fall of 1915. We had a cow, and a few belongings which were brought from Uncle Mike's (some dishes from old country, a hammer, a scythe and sickles). In the fall Dad went back to Innisfree to work for the farmers. He got more grain, some vegetables — peas etc. After the river froze Dad finished work and brought back supplies: flour, salt, sugar, coal oil, and all the seeds for spring planting of the garden. Mother had also brought seeds from the old country. It was necessary for families to raise their own seeds such as carrots, beets, cabbage, onion sets, turnips — all those vegetables that would make their own seeds. In 1916, we had our own garden, cleared some land

and seeded some wheat by hand. No seed drills in those times. Dad built an outside oven — a peech or piats. Dad's brother Mike built a grinder so they could make flour from wheat. The grinder was made from 2 flat stones, one on top of the other. The top stone had a hole in the center and a handle on it so it could be turned. It was called a Horna (pronounced jorna). Early threshing was made possible by some simple tools. First the grain was cut by hand using a scythe — it had a long handle and blade. The cut grain was tied into sheaves and threshed using a flail. The flail was made by tying two sticks, a long and short, together. The bundle of grain (sheaf) was laid down on a patch of ground which previously had had water poured over it and it froze, so there was a smooth, hard surface to work on. The grain was pounded with the flail to separate grain from straw. Often two would work together pounding with flails. Then they would pour the grain from pail to pail so the wind would take away the chaff while the heavier grain fell into the pail.

These few tools and early machines made the living a little easier and things looked brighter. Now we had good bread flour for perohi, noodles, etc. We ate good as Mother was a good cook. She prepared all the Ukrainian dishes we loved. Our garden supplied us with all the good things to eat.

It was during the months of 1917 that our families found out about the village of St. Paul de Metis. A co-operative effort between all the neighbor farmers meant we could clear a 'road' to St. Paul. It twisted between the hills and sloughs. Clearing was hard work done with axes, holes leveled by filling from pails around and stones removed with pick-axes. Back breaking work done by the sweat of a man's brawn.

1919 and 1920 were hard years. The weather was cruel: dry summers and very cold winters. It was hard to survive. Dad and Mom would cut hay from the frozen slough to feed the stock. Dad used a scythe (kosa) and made hay by hand. By then we had a team of horses and a small herd of cattle. So a barn had been built from logs with a thatched roof. The barn housed the cattle, horses, a few chickens and pigs. During the hard winter of 1919 a farmer from Hairy Hill by the name of Kotelko came to request assistance. Pete went to stay with his family while the man was off working in the coal mines. Pete helped with the chores. He was always ready to go help out who ever needed him.

The year 1920 saw a community effort to have a school for the area children. The neighbors got permission and built a one room school house on the land of Mike Yuschyshyn. The school was named after Mr. John Henley due to his extra efforts towards organizing the school. Henley School's first teacher was Sam Kolba. There was no place for the teacher to stay so he stayed with various families a month at a time. School was only taught

3 months out of the year — September, October and November. I (Pete) attended three years of school and therefore received a total of 9 months of Canadian schooling. I had received a small amount of 'Polish' schooling while I was home in old country. Before the building of the school neighbors used to gather in each others' homes for religious services. Different families would have the services in their homes at different times. After the school was built it was used on Sundays to hold the services. It was also used for community concerts and Ukrainian plays.

The railroad came to St. Paul in 1921 or 22. At this time Tony Sencora had a shoe repair shop in the village of St. Paul. As Dad had been a shoemaker in the old country he knew this trade. Tony asked Dad to come and help him out by working for him. Dad's experience was very valuable to Mr. Sencora and he continued to work for Tony for 2 winters.

It was in 1922 that my sister Mary met and married Mike Berehulke. They moved to Drumheller where Mike worked in the coal mines. I went with them in hopes of getting a job in the mines. As I was too young instead I went to work for a farmer in the Drumheller area for \$50 a month. My sister and brother-in-law bought a farm in Warspite. I went along to help them with the move and in the building of a very modest home. Quite a move: a team of horses pulling a wagon full of assorted belongings, chickens, an old sow and a very reluctant cow tied on behind. I stayed on to help Mary and Mike clear some land. For three years I travelled back and forth between Warspite and home to help out.

By 1927 I (Pete) was old enough to have my own homestead. For 10 dollars I was able to get some land from the government. I started to brush and work the land. I also worked for George Fagus breaking land for people. George owned one of the first plows and tractors in the area. I also worked with a friend Jerry Bayrak on the tractor ploughing fields for Bill Halina.

During 1928 my Dad and I started to build a new house on the family homestead. Just before Christmas of 1928 tragedy struck and my Mother was badly burnt with hot lard. My father was also burnt in his efforts to save her and prevent the home from catching on fire. My mother passed away and father was sick in hospital. With the help of Bill Halina and friends somehow we managed through the hardship we had to bear. My Dad and 6 children left at home: Pete (myself) Bill, Katie, Cecelia, Jeannie, and Steve. We all had to struggle together. In addition to helping my father, breaking my land, working for others ploughing and also on threshing crews in the fall. For three seasons I ran the threshing machines and tractor for Frank Linkewich.

In the spring of 1930 Peter had seeded about 50 acres of wheat. The prospects looked good. He decided to get married. He knew the girl from the time she was a youngster. She had lived previously at her parent's place, a farm about one mile from Peter's father's place. Her parents had sent her to Edmonton to stay with her Uncle. Natalia Bayraka had lived in Edmonton for 4 or 5 years with her Uncle Harry Bayraka. During this time she was babysitting and going to school. In spring of 1930 Natalia's brother, Walter, who lived about 1½ miles from Peter's parents, got married. Natalia came at that time from Edmonton, to visit with her brother and new sister-in-law. Although Peter had other girl friends he remembered Natalia from her childhood and wanted to visit her at her brother's place. Peter and Natalia started to see each other. They courted by attending a number of dances and weddings together. Peter asked his love if she would marry him and the answer was, of course, yes. The wedding was planned for the 12th of July 1930.

It was a good wheat crop. In the fall Pete went to work for Frank Linkewich running the tractor and threshing machine. This meant there was enough money to pay for threshing his own crop. In the meantime however the crops were sitting in the stooks. There were wild ducks by the hundreds — and they were doing their own threshing and getting fat. Natalia had a job to go out and try to chase them off. It meant that she got a cold and had to go to the hospital in St. Paul for a week. Finally we got our threshing done and the crops were in the granary. But it was the depression so it meant the prices for wheat had gone way down to 18 and 17 cents a bushel.

Peter and I (Natalia) spent the winter at his Dad's place. Before Christmas Pete's sisters had decided to send to T. Eaton's for a parcel. To save postage Pete and I wrote an order for ourselves to include with his sister's. We had sent for our parcel C.O.D. We could not haul enough grain to make enough money to cover the costs of the parcel before it arrived. Times were hard and the parcel had to be sent back to the T. Eaton company.

During the winter months of 1930/31 Peter gathered some logs. With the help of his father, they hewed the logs with a broad axe and in early spring Peter started to build a two room home. There was spring work to be done and a garden to plant. Finishing and mud plastering was done and by June 30 we had a house to move into. The home had real shingles — beautiful cedar ones — on the roof and it was white washed inside. We had rough lumber for the floor, one window and a door. We were ready to move to our new home. We had a few belongings and only a camp stove for cooking on. In between other work Peter also built a barn. He stacked green feed on the top for a roof, there was no time to build a proper roof. At harvest Peter



Yuschyshyn Family Portrait 1980.

went to work for George Fakus at his farm near Namaio. George needed some help running his threshing machine. Natalia's brother Walter took Peter's team of horses instead of Peter. Petruks had a threshing machine and they threshed at our place. With the help of Peter's Dad (John) and brother Bill, we managed to get the crop in. We had a cook stove which we got in August in time to cook for the threshing crew. Peter had no time to bring and cut wood so I (Natalia) had to saw the wood with a buck saw. With the help of Peter's sisters, Katie and Cecelia, the threshing crew was fed.

Natalia and Peter's dad had the job of mud plastering the barn walls before winter set in. Dad dug for clay, in the hole we danced about in bare feet mixing the mud, water, and straw ready for plastering. With it in place we had a place for our livestock to spend the winter. When Peter came home from threshing at Namaio, he brought some groceries. Apples, jam, coffee and many other good things and some money. 1931 was Peter's and Natalia's first Christmas in their new home. It was a cold bitter hard winter with alot of snow. Within several years Peter had built several buildings, granary and a chicken coop out of rough lumber. The coop was packed with straw inside to keep it warm.

January 15th, 1932 saw the birth of Peter and Natalia's first born, a little girl. The roads were blocked so Natalia had to stay at home with a midwife. Later Natalia got very sick and there were no phones at that time. Peter went for the doctor but when he got there the doctor's wife told him that the doctor was away and she didn't know when he would be back. Mrs. Decosse the doctor's wife told him to go and get Mrs. Vigering. Despite very badly drifted in roads Mrs. Vigering came with Peter. She knew right away what to do. She told Peter to warm some rocks in the oven. They put all the bedding they could into the sleigh and kept Natalia and the baby warm inside with the heated rocks. Peter got Dad's fresh team of horses and

packed Natalia, baby, and Mrs. Vigering and all came to St. Paul hospital. Peter and his brother Bill drove the team to St. Paul in just over an hour. Those horses were going as fast as they could. Natalia had to stay in the hospital for 2 months. The first two weeks were touch and go. Peter was told by the doctor not to go home. He stayed there a week. It was bitter cold and everything froze. Even the metal pail split open with the force of the frozen water. But Natalia's life was to continue and she came home. Baby Eva stayed with her Mom for only a week then she came home before her mother. Natalia's brother's wife, Martha, took the baby from the hospital and cared for her for awhile. Then Peter's sister Katie also helped to care for the infant just before Natalia came home.

Fall of 1932 saw more illness. Peter had to have an appendix operation. He was very sick for awhile, somehow we managed. To make things worse later he got ulcers too. It meant Natalia had to haul grain and do many of Peter's chores. Peter with the help of the doctor and medicine did get better.

Peter and Natalia's family grew. Born to them were: Eva, January 15, 1932; Paul, December 23, 1932; Roy, March 23, 1934; Orest, June 23, 1938; Victor, February 10, 1941; Eddie, June 25, 1942; and Steven, August 7, 1948.

It was just before Victor was born in the fall of 40 that the family moved to Peter's Dad's place. Peter had to add more rooms to the original two room house. Dad had his own bedroom and he stayed with us till the end of his life. He passed away in January of 1962. By that time our son Orest was married and he stayed on at the farm with his wife Elizabeth. As the family grew so had the house. Peter had been working in the sawmill for a couple of winters. Then both of us went cooking for Mr. Hartwell in a sawmill in British Columbia. It was while we were away that Peter's Dad died. Orest had been looking after him before he went to Myrnam to the hospital.

It started a trend and we went every winter to cook at the camps. Peter and I went in winter of 1963 to cook for R. H. Pollock at a lumber camp at Wandering River. We cooked at this camp at Wandering River for three winters. Also we cooked for the road construction camp in Jasper Park. They worked on the road from the town of Jasper to Pochontus the first year gravelling and then the next, paving.

In December, 1964, our home burned down. It was just before Christmas. Peter and Steven, our youngest son, went to work for Mr. Pollack before Christmas as he needed help. Nettie (Natalia became Nettie over the years as it was easier for those she had worked for) was to follow after Christmas. We were planning to spend the holiday in Edmonton with our daughter Eva and her family. But with



Nettie Yuschyshyn feeding a deer near the cook house in 1962, in Jasper National Park.

the tragedy of losing our home we stayed in St. Paul at the home of our son Victor and his wife Shelia. Victor was teaching at the Glen Avon School in St. Paul. When the house burnt down, Orest and Elizabeth moved a shack from the neighbor's. They lived in it for a while. Later they were able to buy a house and move it to the farm. The hardship was made easier by the kind help of friends, neighbors and the Red Cross. The Red Cross brought donations of money, clothing, bedding and other necessities. Everything had been lost in the fire but our lives. At the time Orest and Elizabeth were in St. Paul shopping. Nettie and her two grandchildren were in the house. There was no insurance. Sometime after the fire Peter and I went to work for Mr. Pollok until spring break up.

Peter and Nettie changed jobs and went to work for Fortier and Associates, a catering firm. They sent us where ever they needed cooks. Oil rigs camps too many to mention them all. Our 1st camp was at Lodgepole, then there was Whitecourt, Blue Ridge, Slave Lake, just north of Red Earth, Buck Lake to name a few.

We also worked for Bridge Construction, cooking at Little Berland, Big Berland and Grand Cache. Also at Little Smoky and Big Smokey. Later we worked for over a year in the CN camp number 8 cooking for engineers and surveyors. From here we worked for CN on the railline between Hinton and Grand Prairie. Fortier and Associates also sent us to Banks Island twice, and once to Vanier Island. This was a very nice camp as it was all brand new with all stainless steel kitchen. This camp was very far north within 800 miles from the north pole. Nettie was the first woman to cook that far north.

After this we stayed home for a while and went only as relief cooks when called on. We were able to buy a nice home in Devon, a small oil town southwest of Edmonton.

We have now retired and are living in our home in Devon. Our 7 children are all married and have

homes and families of their own. We have 14 grandchildren. On the 12th of July, 1980 we celebrated our 50th Wedding Anniversary.

THE JOHN AND ANNIE ZACHARKO FAMILY

by Mike Zacharko

When John and Annie Zacharko first settled on S.W. 2-56-10-west of the 4th meridian in 1919, the newly weds had very few conveniences to ease their rugged lifestyle. Their home was a sod shack complete with dirt floor. The running water was about 100 yards away in a spring creek, and when that dried up, there was the reliable slough a short distance away into the forest. Yet amid these rigors and hardships, there bloomed a love of the land and all those things which make the heart beat stronger and the spirits soar — a new era now began.

Carpenter, blacksmith, engineer of sorts, John Zacharko was a man who helped to mold a legacy in this new land. Annie Zacharko, a strong, tenacious, eager, and intelligent woman, was the 50% of this partnership that kept the wheels of the Zacharko clan turning onward when hope was dashed by poor harvest, family illness, neighbourhood tragedy, food and money shortages, and odds that sometimes seemed to be overbearing.

For four years the couple struggled on this barren rocky land, then almost at the end of their patience and hope for a better life, they left their first home and moved to N.E. 18-56-9-west of the 4th to make a fresh start. 1923 brought new hope for a better life for the Zacharko family. The first winter was still spent in a sod shack — but the spring of 1924 held great promise. A crop was planted on



The John Zacharko Family celebrating their 40th Wedding Anniversary. Back L-R: Rick Frazer, Tony Frazer, Wm. Zacharko, Middle: Mike Zacharko, Lillian Zacharko, Mary Frazer, Judy Zacharko, Front: Antonia and John Zacharko.

the new land and it would bring a good yield. There were now two children in the family, Basil and Mary — still no schools for miles around.

A better house was built that year — one with a shingled roof and rough sawn boards for a floor. The next year a water well was dug — no more hauling water from the slough or creek. Things were getting better. More land was being broken — yields were always good — a hope for a better life was just on the horizon.

Then tragedy struck this pioneer family. Their first born son, Basil, fell victim to the terrible flu of 1924 and passed away. Two years later, John Zacharko's brother, Mike, was killed in an accident involving runaway horses. The family was heartbroken and discouraged. It was Annie Zacharko who held the family together; it was her determination to live and pick up the pieces that pulled the family through one of their most difficult times in Lac Bellevue.

Soon another son was born to the family. William Zacharko appeared on the scene Dec. 11, 1925. There were now two children in the family again. And it was a good thing too. The children looked after each other and played with each other giving their mother a chance to do her work and help with the field work.



Antonia and John celebrating their 60th Wedding Anniversary.

The 1930's brought hardships to these pioneers, the like of which make one shrink with fear and break out in a cold sweat. Farm commodities became almost worthless — businesses failed — some farmers just gave up and drifted away. Not so with this pioneer family — the Zacharkos held on to their little parcel of land — they worked long and hard hours and survived — their children now had a school to go to. Perhaps there was still a chance for them to realize their dream for a better life.

Lac Bellevue School, that hallowed hall of learning which served all the family children with a formal education, was three and a half miles from the Zacharko house. Now the children of the com-

munity would learn to read and write in the mother tongue of this new land — this new land of hope — this land of promise — this Canada. How proud those founding men and women must have been when they built that new school and with it the fond hope that this school would help their children to a better way of life.

1934 brought the last of the three sons, Michael, to the Zacharko family. Along with the new child that year, came the worst hail storm the family ever experienced. Crops were flattened and mulched with the soil — windows were broken — shingles cracked and ripped off the roof — even chickens unlucky enough to be outside when the storm exploded were struck down with no chance of survival. It was horrible! All the crops were gone — so was the hope for the new things that were to be added to the new expanding farm. As soon as the storm had done its worst, the re-building began, lodged grasses were salvaged where possible. The damaged crops started to sprout after the heavy rains and grew quickly — with fine weather they might yet make some feed for the livestock for winter feeding. Somehow the family would survive — they would try again — perhaps this time success would be theirs.

The Second World War brought its own unique problems for the Zacharko Family. The idea of ration coupons, the emphasis on savings, shortages for the war effort, the draft of young men to the service, all these factors made life difficult. Although none of the Zacharko children actually served in Canada's armed forces, the anxiety that accompanies war was deeply felt. Then on Feb. 29, 1944, the last child of the Zacharko family made its appearance on the scene — Lilian Zacharko.

Sometimes during the period of 1945-46 Mrs. Zacharko opened a small general store in her home. It was here that the neighbours would come to buy some of the necessities of life. It was here that all the neighbourhood kids would come to play and buy a chocolate and a soft drink for a nickel. The store remained open for business for almost ten years. Then as people began to buy cars and trucks and local roads were improved, the people of the district moved their buying and shopping to St. Paul.

During this time Mr. Zacharko was the neighbourhood blacksmith. Plow shares were sharpened, clevises were made, hands were burned, and the thrill of turning the forge and making all those sparks when the iron got hot was the glory of all the neighbourhood kids. He even had time to do some custom plowing for neighbours with his new W-4 tractor.

By this time, Mary, the oldest daughter was married to Anthony Frazer in 1942. They lived only a half mile away from the farm. They gave rise to three children; James Ronald, an automechanic,

lives in St. Paul with his wife Mona and two children, Michael and Christina; Carl Richard, a rancher-farmer, lives on and owns the land originally rented by his dad from his uncle. Richard is married to Paulette Genereux and they have two daughters — Karen and Tina. Linda, the only girl in the family, lives in Edmonton with her husband, David Hurtubise, and their young son, Jason.

In 1947, William, the oldest living son, married his neighbourhood sweetheart, Olga Fodchuk. They have two daughters. Judy is married to Randy Kulczycki; Debbie, the youngest, is still single and lives with her parents in St. Paul. Judy and Randy also live in St. Paul and have one daughter — Dayna. William and his family own and operate a transport business — Hi-Way 28 Freightways Ltd. — in St. Paul.

July 19, 1969 was the wedding day for Lilian Zacharko — the youngest Zacharko daughter. She became the bride of Donald Demchuk of Stoney Lake. They live on the farm and have one son, Elvis. Lilian also teaches business education at the St. Paul Regional School.

Mr. and Mrs. Zacharko continued to live on their farm until 1972. By this time it was getting more difficult for them to get around so they decided they would retire from the farm and move to St. Paul. This they did and are still living there today.

Michael, the youngest son of the Zacharko family, finished his high school education at the St. Paul District school, worked on his dad's farm, then decided to go to university to become a teacher. Graduating from the University of Alberta in 1956 with a diploma in Education and license to teach in the province of Alberta, he took his first teaching position in Drayton Valley, Alberta, where he taught for two years. In Sept. of 1958, he started an 18 year teaching career in the St. Paul Schools that ended on June 30, 1976. Retiring from teaching, Michael spent more time in the trucking business with his brother, William. Then in 1978 he married his school sweetheart, Mary Dyrda (nee Fodchuk). They now live with their two daughters, Peggy and Kelly, on his parent's farm at Lac Bellevue which they now own and operate.

And so another chapter in the saga of this Canada was written in the district of Lac Bellevue. The seed that started back in February of 1919 grew well. The crop was strong and healthy. Today the sons and daughters are proud that their parents were part of the process of building this fine country. Today the children and grandchildren give thanks to God and their parents for their courage, their love, their strength and their hope that steeled the will of John and Annie Zacharko to make the opportunity of a better life possible for themselves and their children. Their success is sweet and inspiring to us all.

MR. AND MRS. DEMETRO ZACHARUK

by Lloyd Yaremko

Mr. Demetro Zacharuk, son of Mr. Elia and Anne Zacharuk was born the 2nd of October, 1894 in Western Ukraine. There, he met Maria Lukenchuk, daughter of Andrew and Kalina Lukenchuk.

They were married on February 10, 1921. Leaving behind his bride of 7 years, he left for Canada. Little did he know that it would be 41 years before he would be reunited with her. He arrived by train to Mundare, 24th of March, 1928. He had arrived in Canada, March 17, 1928. With no particular place in mind, the immigration agents took him and other fellow immigrants to Mundare to search for work on local farms.

He worked for one month for a farmer who paid him \$15.00. He then left for Saskatoon where he once more worked for a month on a section of railroad near Saskatoon. With only 2 months earnings, he carried through until harvest time where once more, he would be employed. At harvest time, he got a job on a farm where he earned \$75.00 which served as his sole finances through the winter.



Mr. and Mrs. Demetro Zacharuk.



Mr. Demetro Zacharuk's cucumber garden in St. Paul in 1980
— Beehives on the right center.

The following spring he obtained work on the farm again because of the scarcity of work in town. In the fall of 1928, Mr. Zacharuk attempted to secure a job at a bush camp in Neepawin, Saskatchewan. When he arrived, he found that there were 5,000 hopefuls awaiting to be hired. However, only 250 were hired and the rest were unemployed. Never had he experienced such a disheartening situation; men slept in barns, trains and even in the bush near a fire in temperatures of extreme cold. He was able to find work at a German shoe makers for 50¢ a day. Before spring, he took sick and left for Saskatoon, the next day after he arrived, he went for an appendectomy. He remained in Saskatoon for the entire year, unemployed.

In 1930, he once again worked during the harvest season. The very same year he left for Toronto and was hired as a labourer where he worked in various gardens and orchards.

He left Toronto in 1932 upon hearing about the availability of cheap land in Alberta. He arrived in Edmonton and bought a homestead. He cut the logs and built a home and remained there for 6 years.

In 1938 he borrowed money from 2 people and then purchased 70 acres of land along the North bank of the North Saskatchewan River. He was now living North of Myrnam. At a later date, he purchased an additional 60 acres of land. The homestead already had a house and there was room for a 6 acre garden, to this he added an additional 5 acres. He worked in the garden raising cucumbers, potatoes and even watermelons. In one particular year, he recalled raising about 8,000 small watermelons. He later bartered one bag of watermelons for one bag of wheat (which at the time was about 35¢ a bushel). He collected a half granary of wheat. He then placed an order for 600 chicks. He

owned a two wheeled cart which provided him with transportation for his produce as he travelled from Myrnam to St. Paul to Elk Point to Myrnam again. The cart was fancifully decorated with paintings of vegetables on the sides.

In 1948, he bought a truck and used it to transport his produce to market. Along with his thriving vegetable business, he also raised bees and kept a total of 45 hives. He became so well known, he was visited by the Agricultural Minister at that time, Mr. David Yur. Mr. Yur was amazed at the amount of work Mr. Zacharuk did in the garden all by himself. The Minister was quoted to have said that there was plenty of work for ten people. It seemed an impossible task for one man.

In the same year (1948), he opened a small confectionary, which he called the Riverview Store. It was the only store at the ferry crossing.

His success in gardening and produce could be largely attributed to the extended growing season. The mist off the river prevented the plants from being killed by frost. The river also provided him with water during dry years when he could pump water with a cistern pump.

He was a major participant and organizer of annual plays at the Lac Bellevue Hall. He also composed and recited his own poems. In 1953, he moved to St. Paul and purchased two acres of land. Mr. Zacharuk worked for the county for 8 years in caring for flowers, hedges and trees. He also continued bee-keeping and gardening in St. Paul.

On March 8th, 1969, after 41 years of separation, Metro and Maria Zacharuk were reunited. The following year the couple built their own home in St. Paul where they presently reside.

THE FRED ZACHARUK STORY

by Fred Zacharuk

I was born at Lac Bellevue on March 14, 1916 on my parent's farm. I was the second eldest of nine children. We lived in a two-room log house sharing all we had.

As I was growing up, I helped with the farm chores and attended Henley School, the same school as my own children attended later.

During my teen years I also found employment with the local farmers during the harvest season. I can recall walking four miles for our mail on Saturdays to the Noel Post Office which was located at the north end of Lac Bellevue Lake.

On February 29, 1940 I married Annie (Anna) Piotrowski of Stoney Lake. We shared this celebration with Annie's sister Helen and her husband Mike Trach in a double wedding ceremony.

After our marriage we moved to a farm owned by T.C. Ashworth which was located four miles south west of Lac Bellevue Hall. Our three children were born while we farmed here. Because we lived



Double wedding at Rudolph Piotrowski — 1940. Annie and Helen Piotrowski, Fred and Annie Zacharuk, Mike and Helen Trach — Mike and Stella (nee Piotrowski) Trach and Edward Piotrowski.

four miles from Henley School, our two sons along with Nick Tymchuk's children and the late Harry Forchuk's children rode in a heated one horse-drawn caboose to school in the winter months.

Hard times prevailed. To subsidize my farm income I did much trapping during the winter. Muskrat pelts sold from one to five dollars each. We lived on the Ashworth farm for eleven years.

Our first vehicle was a 1927 Essex which I bought in 1947 for \$125.00. It was a two-passenger car with a rumble seat which could open up for another two small passengers. In 1948 we purchased our second car; a 1936 Willis.

After saving up enough money we bought a quarter section of land two miles south; S.E. 5-56-9-W4. Here we traded our car off for my first very own tractor; a Massey Harris 102. Up till now the farming was all done by horse-drawn machinery.



Double 25th Anniversary held at Stoney Lake Hall in February 1965. Top row: Florence and Elsie Trach, Lawrence, Florence and Eddie Zacharuk. Front: Mike and Helen Trach, Annie and Fred Zacharuk.

We continued to receive our mail at the Lac Bellevue Post Office (Noel's) until the Noel residence burned down. The Post Office was then transferred to Taschuk's residence and later to Metro Worobec's.

I have fond memories of the weekly trips to the Post Office combined with the frequent stops at Zacharko's store as a Saturday treat, to purchase a few necessities for the home, share a joke or two and catch up on some of the latest news.

Farming was not always profitable and so I was forced to seek other sources of income. For five winters, two to three months at a time when farming was at a slow pace, I worked at lumber camps in Lac La Biche area; limbing trees, piling lumber and doing various other tasks around the lumber mill. Pay was good and it helped with the farm expenses. In my absence my wife and children looked after the farm chores.

Community spirit prevailed; especially during building bees and harvest when farmers worked together erecting buildings and bringing in their crops.

One summer during the school holiday months I worked in Edmonton in construction. In the summer of 1952 I worked at Lloydminster on the C.P. Railroad. My last employment away from the farm was for two and a half months during the winter at the Valleyview lumber camp.

Even though farming took up most of our time we still found time for pleasure. We looked forward to the Sunday outings at Lac Bellevue Lake, where family picnics and sport events took place. The annual St. Peter's Day picnic held at Lac Bellevue Hall was an excellent place to meet new friends and renew old acquaintances.

In 1967 the Government bought our and other surrounding land for community pasture. My wife and I moved to St. Paul and have lived there since.

Annie began working at the former St. Paul Cleaners as a seamstress. When they closed down in 1971 she began working for the A-1 Cleaners and is still in their employ.

I have worked at the Beaver Lumber as a yard man; William's Construction in land development and farming; and with Noel and Blanchette doing various odd jobs.

I retired in 1978 and presently am looking forward to becoming an official "senior citizen" in March 1981.

My family consists of two sons, one daughter, four grandsons and three granddaughters. Eddie, our eldest married Margaret Boratynec of Lake Eliza. They reside in Sherwood Park with their three sons Bradley, Darrell and Michael. Ed works at the Alberta Research Council as a research technologist while Margaret teaches for the Edmonton Public School Board. Lawrence married Gloria Lyt-



Family picture taken in 1980 — Annie and Fred Zacharuk, Lawrence, Florence and Eddie.



Annie Zacharuk (nee Gadowski), Nick Zacharuk, Paul Zacharuk, Nick Fakas, Ted Gadowski, Pauline Zacharuk, Tony Zacharuk, Peter Zacharuk, Olga Gadowski, and Stella Gadowski.

tle of Ashmont. They reside in St. Paul where Lawrence works as a truck driver for L. & M. International while Gloria cares for their young family. Tracy Sheila and Kathy are their children.

Florence married Russell Van Riper of Spedden. They live in Edmonton with their son Kelly. After retiring from the work force, Florence too has taken up homemaking on a full-time basis while Russell works as an administrator with Municipal Affairs.

HARRY ZACHARUK STORY

by Fred Zacharuk

My dad was born in 1888. In 1905, leaving his family and homeland, he sailed to Canada at the age of 17 to seek his fortune. His first job in Canada was with the Canadian Pacific Railroad. He started working at Winnipeg and continued working on various phases of the rail line from Winnipeg to Vancouver.

In 1912 he applied for and received a homestead in the Lac Bellevue district. The legal land description was N.W. 26-55-9-W4th Meridian.



Harvest time on Nick Fakas's farm. On the rack are Harry Zacharuk, and Nick Fakas. Maria Fakas standing beside.

His wife Anna came to Canada from Galecia, Poland in the early 1900's, with her parents and her sister Paraska, sailing from Rotterdam, Holland. A friend of Anna's, Mrs. Sophie Tymchuk (Nick Tymchuk's sister) accompanied them on this trip of Canada.

Anna's dad Mr. Fakas homesteaded in the Lac Bellevue area as well; on a quarter section of land N.E. 3-56-9-W4th Meridian.

It was in Andrew, Alberta that my dad met Anna, who had been staying with her brother George who at the time was married to Mary Yarmey.

After marrying Anna Fakas in 1913 my dad and his bride moved onto his homestead three and a half miles south of the present Lac Bellevue Hall. They lived here for eleven years. It was here that their first five children; Mike, Fred, Mary, Helen and Nick were born.



1958 — Harry and Anna Zacharuk on their farm at Lac Bellevue.



Sawing wood at Mike Zacharuk's in about 1939. Pictured from L.-R.: Harry Zacharuk, Mike Petruk, Tom Petruk, Fred Zacharuk, Pete Yuschyshyn, Stanley Gadowski, and Tony Stephaniskyn.

In 1926 they moved to another farm located S.W. 3-56-9-W4th Meridian which was located one mile west of Henley School. Their four younger children Tony, Peter, Pauline and Paul were born here. Mother and Dad farmed here for 32 years until their retirement to St. Paul, Alberta in 1958. During these 32 years they watched their family grow, attending Henley School and then leaving home to start families and homes of their own.

It was during their well deserved retirement at St. Paul that dad passed away in 1963. My mother continued to reside in St. Paul until her death in November 1972.

Before their passing my mother and dad lived to see many of their descendants; a family which grew to a present seventy-five members.

Their eldest son, Mike married Anna Gadowski, daughter of Joe and Annistasia Gadowski in 1936 and set up residence on the Nikoli Fakas homestead. Here he farmed for many years until his move to Edmonton. Richard, Eleanor and Glen are their children.

In February 1940, their second son Fred married Annie Protrowski. It was a large festive occasion; a double wedding ceremony as Annie's sister Helen married Mike Trach on that same day. Fred and Annie lived in the Lac Bellevue area for 27 years. They presently reside in St. Paul. Eddie, Lawrence and Florence are their children.

Mary married Bill Saskiw in 1938. They first set up residence in St. Paul where Bill owned a livery barn. Later they moved to St. Brides where they owned a store, and then in later years they farmed, in the Beauvallon area until their retirement to Innisfree. Their children are Albert, Robert, Thomas and Linda.

Helen married Ray Hall when he was stationed at Edmonton with the United States Armed Forces. After a short stay in Nashville, Tennessee, they returned to Lac Bellevue and later to St. Paul. After being widowed, Helen continued to live in St. Paul where she presently resides. Her children are Bab-bie, Billie, Roger and Glen.

Nick married Mary Lasota, daughter of Wasył and Mary Lasota and took up residence in St. Paul. Nick had a trucking business which he later sold. He is presently farming in the Lac Bellevue area. Patricia and Donna are their two daughters.

Tony married Annie Smuk, daughter of Dan and Kalyna Smuk. They took up farming with Annie's parents in the Stony Lake area and still farm that same land today. Dennis and David are their two sons.

Peter married Edna Mindiuk, daughter of Bill and Mary Minduik. They took up residence in St. Paul where Peter worked at the Co-op Store and still does today. Gary and Sherry are their two children.

Pauline, their youngest daughter married Ted Johnston who was in the Armed Forces at the time. After serving in Canada and overseas for many years, Ted and Pauline have made Wainwright their home. Gerald and Jimmy are their sons.

The youngest member of their family, Paul married Alberta Fox, daughter of Tom and Irene Fox. After living in St. Paul and Grande Prairie they now reside in Wainwright. They have a daughter, Kristina.

MIKE AND ANNA (ANNIE) ZACHARUK

by M. Zacharuk

In 1908 Harry Zacharuk, my father came to Canada in search of a better life. My mother, Anna



Mike and Anne Zacharuk wedding day — June 26, 1937.



Oldest children of Harry Zacharuk — 1926 — L-R: Back: Fred, Mike, Mary. Front: Helen, Nick.

Fakas, and her parents came four years later for much the same reason. My parents met and married in Canada in 1912. I was born in my grandparents' home in Lac Bellevue on October 18, 1914 on the homestead I eventually purchased from my grandparents at the age of nineteen and farmed until 1975 with my wife Anna (Annie) (N.E. 3-56-9-W4th). I have five brothers — Fred, Nick, Tony, Pete and Paul and three sisters — Mary Saskiw, Helen Hall and Pauline Johnston. I went to Henley School.

My wife Anna was born in Niskolyzy Buczac, Poland on April 13, 1919. Her father, Joseph Gadowski, sailed alone to Canada in 1925 in search of a better life and partly because his brothers Mike, Ignace and Andrew were already homesteading in the Lac Bellevue District. He purchased land in the Lac Canard District and sent for his family to join him. On May 21, 1926 when Anna was seven years old, her mother, Anastazia Gadowski (nee Platan-chyk) and her four children — Anna, Stanley, Ignace and Ted — sailed from Liverpool to Halifax where they boarded the train for St. Paul. My mother-in-law often mentioned how rough the ocean voyage had been. She was seasick for the entire month they were at sea. Anna's sisters Stella and Olga were born in Canada. Ignace passed away in 1927 at the age of six, her mother on June 30, 1952 at the age of fifty-eight, her father on July 5, 1966 at the age of seventy-nine and Stella on December 27, 1969 at age forty-two.

From 1931-1932 I worked as a farmhand for ten dollars a month. In 1934 I purchased land from my grandfather Fakas (N.E. 3-56-9-W4) and started my

farming with three horses and a plow. On June 26, 1937, at age 22, I married Anna Gadowski, age 18. We spent thirty-eight years mixed farming this original quarter of land and others we purchased over the years. Our first sixteen years were spent in a two-room log house. Then in 1953 we built a new three bedroom bungalow.

During our early years of residence in Lac Bellevue, I broke a lot of land for neighbors with my 15-30 McCormick Deering tractor and one-bottom plow and later with an Oliver Cletrac caterpillar. For four years I crushed grain for farmers in the Lac Bellevue area on Saturdays. I also sawed wood for many of my neighbors.



L-R: Ted, Olga, Stanley, Dad Joe, Mother Anastazia, Anna, Stella, — 1946.

I was always active in community affairs. For fifteen years I was Secretary-Treasurer for Henley School where my children went to school. For several years I was also secretary for the St. Michael Cemetery and for approximately ten years the A.G.T. toll station was located in our home. It was the only public telephone in the district and we would often have to deliver messages to neighbors. We attended most weddings, parties, picnics, concerts, dances and funerals in the district.

We have three children. All of our children attended elementary school at Henley School, then went to Myrnam and St. Paul for their high school. All three children went to the University of Alberta and completed Bachelor of Education degrees. After a few years of teaching our daughter Eleonor and our youngest son Glenn returned to University and completed Master of Education degrees.

Our oldest son Kevan married Carmelle Lafrance from St. Paul. Kevan is presently living in North Vancouver where he is self-employed and also manages two apartment block complexes. Carmelle is a supervisor of computer programming for Pacific Western Airlines. They have no children.

Our only daughter Eleonor married Ron Brewster from Gimli, Manitoba. Both Ron and Eleonor are teaching school in Edmonton where they live with their daughter Heather Andrea.



Mike Zacharuk's first car.

Glenn and his wife Shirley (nee Tkachuk) live in Lac La Biche, Alberta where Glenn is Assistant Principal at J.A. Williams High School and Shirley has taken a leave of absence from teaching to raise their three children — Kristie Lynn, Leanne Michelle, and Ryan Darrell.

We moved to Edmonton in 1975. The following two winters we spent in British Columbia. I am presently employed by Western Electrical Constructors and National Electric Wholesale in Edmonton managing an electrical department. Because my wife enjoys children very much, she does occasional babysitting.

During the winter of 1979 we had the pleasure of sharing a trip to Disneyland and Hawaii with our daughter and her family.

NICK ZACHARUK FAMILY

by Nick Zacharuk

I was born on the 25th day of December, 1924 at Lac Bellevue. My parents were Anna and Harry



Picture taken March 1960 — Nick Zacharuk hauling tamarack rails from Wolf Lake Colony.

Zacharuk who came from the Ukraine as immigrants. I was raised on the farm and started Henley School in September 1931. My first teacher was William G. Pareyko, followed by William Chrapko, Miss Katherine Hollick and last teacher Mrs. Nancy Shemaliuk. At 15 years, I quit school and helped my parents with farming. But at 16 years of age I thought I should earn some money on my own. So in the fall of 1941, I went to the Andrew District for a job on the farm. Mr. Tom Wooley hired me to work for him.

My first job was to disc summerfallow with four horses. The wages for this was one dollar a day. Then, when harvest came, my job was stooking. This changed the wage to two dollars a day. When stooking was finished, we started threshing. My job was hauling bundles with a team from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. sometimes later, for the sum of \$2.50 per day. After threshing was finished, Mr. Wooley paid me. I got a ride with one of his neighbors to the city of Edmonton. I had quite a time as I didn't know my way around at all, but I managed somehow. The first item I bought myself was a three piece suit (that was my first one), for the sum of \$14.00.



Picture taken 1979 — The Nick Zacharuk family — From L-R: Donna, Nick, Mary, Patricia.

As the years went by, I tried farming, working out now and then. But finally in the fall of 1947, I bought my first 3-ton truck. I did grain hauling, cattle, tamarack posts and tractor hauling. In the fall of 1950, I bought a gravel box. Then started in gravel hauling. This was sure and steady cash money.

In 1954, I built my first home in St. Paul. In 1957, I met Mary Lesota, daughter of Wasyl and Mary Lesota of Lac Bellevue. We got married on the 21st day of June, 1958 in the Greek Catholic church in St. Paul. We have two girls from our marriage, Patricia, born June 7, 1959, is at present in nursing at the University Hospital. Donna, born October 22, 1963, is completing her Grade 12 at St. Paul Regional High School.

In the spring of 1960, my wife and I formed a Company under the name of N. Zacharuk Construction Ltd. The kind of work done was basement excavating, supplying black dirt, gravel, sand, and landscaping. In 1962, we sold the house in town and bought the land where Eastend Mobile Homes is now. We built a home there and stayed in business until we sold to Jack Charbonneau in the spring of 1966. The construction equipment was sold out. By July 1966 we moved to the farms at Lac Bellevue on which we reside now. The land description is N. 1/2 4-56-9-W4 and S. 1/2 9-56-9-W4. At present the farming operation consists of 460 acres cultivated land. We market wheat and barley. We raise cattle, horses, sheep and pigs.

DAMCO AND USTINA ZAHORODNY

by Russ Paziuk

On researching the Paziuk family history one must first examine the life of another early pioneering couple, Damco and Ustina Zahorodny. Their daughter Jessie married Nick Paziuk.

Leaving his wife Jessie and family in their homeland, Nick landed in Canada about 1908-09. After living in Canada for approximately two years, Nick decided to bring his wife and family, and his mother and father-in-law, Damco and Ustina Zahorodny. It was in 1911 that the families arrived in the Calgary area.

Between the years 1911 and 1913, Damco worked for the City of Calgary and Nick worked at the Camrose coal mines. Because of a mine accident, and the persuasion by the family to find a different trade, Nick and the Zahorodnys moved on to Northern Alberta where they each bought a homestead in the Lac Bellevue area. Another factor that speeded their move from Calgary area at that time, was the threat of war. The Ukraine people were also considered aliens. Damco lost his job in Calgary. On October 16/13 Damco registered a homestead, on quarter section S.E. 13-56-9-4.

The Zahorodnys lived with their son-in-law Nick until about 1918, when the family experienced several losses of their family members. Damco's wife, Ustina passed away and Damco continued working for different people throughout the area until about 1930 while living with his son-in-law, Nick Paziuk. Damco lived with his granddaughter and husband, Annie and Ignace Gadowski for a brief time after Nick Paziuk passed away. He later followed his daughter Tessie when she moved to the Beauvallon district and lived with her for a very short time. His last years were spent with Nellie and Fred Paziuk until his passing on March 29, 1941.

THE ZENKO FAMILY STORY

by John Zenko

My story begins in 1904, when my father, William Zenko, arrived in Montreal, Canada at the age of fifteen. He came from the small village of Volgoda, Russia, approximately sixty miles north of Moscow. He worked in Montreal in steel works and ammunitions until 1914 when he enlisted with the Canadian Expeditionary Force 100th Winnipeg Grenadiers Reinforcements. He served in Canada, England and France. He was wounded twice; once over the left eye and once in the leg. He was discharged on April 2nd, 1919 after serving for five years at which time he returned to Montreal.



John and Adaline Zenko and Family: Ed, Lucille, Debra.

NO. 194

STATEMENT OF GRAIN THRESHED

BY

FOR

Kind of Grain	No. of Bus.	Per Bus.	\$	c.
---------------	-------------	----------	----	----

Wheat				
-------	--	--	--	--

Oats				
------	--	--	--	--

Barley				
--------	--	--	--	--

Flax				
------	--	--	--	--

Total				
-------	--	--	--	--

You are hereby notified that the above mentioned Grain will be held by the Thresher's Lien until payment of this account in full.

Thresher's Signature

Witness

Witness

Caption of Statement of Grain Threshed.

My mother, Antonia Hancharuk, was born in Austria on March 17, 1888. She came to Montreal with her mother and her brother, Nick Hancharuk. My parents were married in 1920 in Montreal. The roaring twenties were very good years for the Zenko family. The wages were good and along with many others, our family prospered. People had few worries. During these early years, Nick Hancharuk moved to Vermilion, Alberta after hearing news of the homesteads in the West. He wrote to my parents and told them about a quarter section of raw land which could be purchased for ten dollars. Excited with the news, my parents decided to bring our family west. They arrived in St. Paul and filed on N.E. 31-55-9-W4 in the Lac Bellevue area.

But life was not as rosy as they had hoped. It was as if a curse had been placed on them. The Great Depression had begun. Farming brought little income to the family and sickness added an extra burden. By this time, there were six children in our family; Stella, Olga, John, Mary, Steve and Zigmond. Steve died of diptheria and Olga and Zigmond died as infants. My mother suffered from tuberculosis for several years. The hardships of Alberta discouraged them and they moved to Manitoba.

Due to the hardships of my family, I began to provide for myself very early in life. I lived with various neighbours and in return, I worked for them while I was going to school. At the age of fifteen, my parents moved to Manitoba and I was completely on my own. Along with many other young men at that time, I began travelling from place to place looking for some kind of work. I rode the freight trains from coast to coast. We would stop in various places and work where work could be found. I worked in pulp mills, lumber camps and farms and later in packing plants and on oil rigs. For a young boy, these travels were both adventurous and educational.

My travels eventually brought me back to Alberta. The depression was over and work was easier to find. Although wages were still poor, I decided to try farming. Adaline Roman and I were married on December 18, 1942. We moved onto S.W. 20-57-7. Our first home was an old log shack which we brought into living condition during the previous summer. In 1944, we bought the adjoining quarter, N.W. 20-57-7, where there was a well, a spacious five room house and a few barns. It was a cold house but with a big wood burning stove in the living room and a cook stove in the kitchen, we managed to keep warm provided we awoke during the night to restoke the fire. Even then, however, the water would freeze in the pail of drinking water.

Our first born, Lucille came on March 13, 1946 and a year later, our only son Edward was born in July, 1947. then, the baby of our family, Debbie was born on May 31, 1959.

All of our children went to Elk Point Elementary and High School. Lucille chose nursing as a career and graduated from the Misericordia School of Nursing in 1968. In 1976, she married Terry Topolinski of Edmonton. Lucille and Terry have two children now; Carmen, age 3 and Darron, age 1.

Ed spent a number of years in University. He first got his degree in Medical Science but he did not think he would be happy in that field. He went on to get his Bachelor of Science in Agriculture and



John and Adaline Zenko's first home.

recently, he completed his Master of Science in Agriculture.

Debbie was married shortly after she graduated from High School in 1977 to Ernie Poulin of St. Paul, Alberta. She decided to enroll in the Faculty of Education at the University of Alberta. On April, 9, 1979, Curtis, our first grandson was born. Debbie graduated with her Bachelor of Education in 1981.

We are still living on the same farm. We bought a new house in 1967 and moved it here from St. Edward. We are still farming but for the past seven years, I have been the County Councillor for this area. It has been a very satisfying position of which I feel honored to hold.

In my lifetime, as well as many others from my generation, our lives were filled with numerous changes. No other generation in the past has seen such rapid technological changes. As children, we saw our parents farm with oxen and horses.

As young adults, we also farmed with horses and later with more efficient small tractors. As the years past, more and more advanced equipment became available. Prices fluctuated and at times, financial growth was difficult as we tried to keep up with the times. These technological changes are likely to continue and aid mankind at an even faster rate in the future. One day, when our children read these memoirs and sit down to write their own, I hope that they will understand these feelings. They will experience even greater changes in their lives than we could possibly comprehend. They will have to take many huge steps but I am confident they will succeed in their efforts to assist generations of the future.

ANDREW AND PAULINE ZUK

by Fred and Joanne Shyian

Andrew Zuk came to Canada in 1928 from Sarny, Leview. He worked for the C.P.R. in Calgary and various parts of Alberta, coming finally to the St. Paul area where he settled. In 1935 he bought a farm located on S.E. 21-56-9-W4th in the Lac Canard district.

He met Pauline and they were married in 1936. Pauline, born in the Lac Canard district, was the second eldest daughter of Frank and Justina Linkewich.

For their honeymoon they went up north to McRae to work in a sawmill camp, run by Frank Linkewich and Paul Chmilar. Pauline cooked meals and washed clothes for the crew at the camp. She washed clothes by hand using a tub and scrub-board. The camp house was built of logs. Moss was stuffed between the logs to keep the heat in. The furniture was homemade. Benches and stumps were used for sitting.

In the spring they returned to continue farming. There they started with two cows, three horses,



Andrew and Pauline Zuk.

several chickens and one pig. The land was partially cleared. There were some buildings on it.

Their first home was a two room log house plastered with clay and straw. A few years later they moved into a larger house which they acquired. This home was also built of logs and plastered with clay and straw. Later a kitchen was built onto the house. The inside walls were plastered with a mixture of sand and clay, then later white washed with lime.

A proud moment in their lives was when they purchased their first truck. It was a used 1947 International. Later in the 1950's they purchased a new truck, a tractor and some machinery. With the tractor and machinery this made farming much easier.

Andrew and Pauline were blessed with two daughters, Irene and Joann. Irene and Joann both attended school at Lac Canard and later in St. Paul. Joann also attended school in Edmonton.

In 1954 Irene married John Rawluk and farmed in the Lake Bellevue district. They had two children, Sandra and Leslie.

In 1963, Joann married Fred Shyian. They have three children; Darryl, Laurie and Rodney and are presently residing in Edmonton.

In the spring of 1957 Andrew and Pauline decided to retire from farming. They sold their farm and purchased a home in Edmonton. They both found employment at Great Western Garment. (G.W.G.).

Andrew retired from G.W.G. in 1974. Pauline is still presently employed with G.W.G.

STEVE AND STELLA ZUK AND FAMILY

as told to Russell Paziuk

Our story unfolds as a young Austrian boy, born in the year 1897, decided to risk leaving his parents, family, and homeland to seek a new future in a strange and foreign land, Canada. It was in the year 1928, that this young 31 year old man arrived



Mrs. Zuk and daughter Bertha.



John and Steve Zuk.

by boat to Quebec, and like most people of Slavic origin, describes what a frightful and uncertain feeling he had because of the language barrier upon his arrival to this country.

Stella was born in Montreal, Canada, in the year 1914, and at the age of 8, in 1922, accompanied by her parents, moved to Alberta with expectations of creating a new life. It was in the year 1928, through the efforts of another pioneer in the Lac Bellevue area, Tony Cencora, that Steve arrived in St. Paul, and recalls that for the next year he worked at whatever job he could get and in most cases, simply for food and lodging. When he was paid for his work, in those years, .60¢ a day was very gratifying, and besides paying for everyday living expenses, a portion of this .60¢ a day would be saved to buy him a farm, etc. Steve realized his dream, when in 1929, he filed for a homestead in the Lac Bellevue area, and thus began the task of cutting bush, building a house, and breaking the land. He recalls how, when he was given the legal description of the quarter he took out as a homestead (S.W. 20-56-10-4), he walked the 13 or so miles south of St. Paul, to simply locate this land he had purchased.

He tells us that there were no roads, just game trails, and some wagon trails beaten down by the residents that came to the area before him. He recalls the area, mostly wooded, was a welcome sight as there would be plenty of logs to build a house and plenty of firewood to have heat during the long cold winter months. The thought of the land being heavily wooded was a welcome sight because of the above mentioned. Very shortly, it became a reality to Steve that it would also hold some short comings when he realized that these trees must be cleared and the land plowed.

In the year 1934, Steve (veteran of World War 1) and Stella married, and thus began their homesteading days in the Lac Bellevue community. Through the successive years, the two were blessed with a family of six children. Jean, Albert, Bertha, Irene, Peter, Larry. They have 22 grandchildren.

The Steve Zuk family moved from the Lac Bellevue area to Edmonton in 1966. As of this writing, Steve and Stella are enjoying their retirement, in North East Edmonton, and their family is all located in the Edmonton area.



The Steve Zuk residence on the Lac Bellevue farm.

DO YOU REMEMBER

Party held in the Lac Bellevue Hall 1941 for the going away soldiers from the district.

Some of the boys as remembered by local residents: Dan Sharun, Mike Harmatiuk, William Prodaniuk, Harry Paziuk, and others.



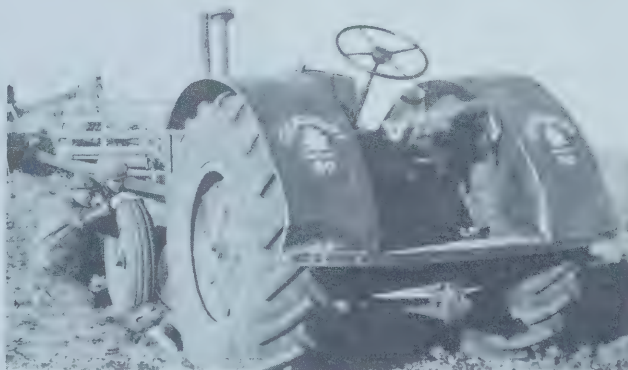
Aerial view of the Hamlet of Lafond taken in March, 1981. In the background, the Lafond Church with the rectory to the left, behind the tall spruce. To the right, across the road is Lafond Store and Post Office, a small warehouse, busses nearby. In the foreground, Lafond School, to its right, 2 white trailers for the teachers. To the left of the school, across the road is Alphonse Malo's home, in which is the Lafond Credit Union. The other buildings are some of the private homes.



Wallis Cub 1913 bought by Ashworth Brothers from Arthur Dupree dealer in Vermilion.



Mr. Philias Jean cutting grain 1934. Mr. Achille Dumont from Tangent on the binder, helping to harvest the crop. Laurier and Pierre 4 and 6 years old.



Threshing 1940 (front wheel of tractor) Rudy Huget and Arnette Ingram.



Threshing On The Lafreniere Farm.



Georges standing beside his father, Ernest Tremblay, who is driving the tractor. On the bales: Laurent, Alcide and Bernard.



From right to left: Mr. Jos Lafrance, his son Paul and his brother-in-law Antoine Tremblay leaving for a combining trip to the mid-western States, on June 22, 1944. Mr. Lafrance's combine on the truck was the first self-propelled combine purchased in Lafond and the St. Paul District.



Threshing on Mr. Jos Lafrance's farm in the late '20s. The McCormick 1530 tractor and the 1928 Chevrolet truck on the right were Jos Lafrance's; the threshing machine was his brother's, Cyrice.



Damase and Hubert Lavoie threshing — Oct. 1950.



Grain Cutting on the Ashworth farm. Notice the right and left hand binder.



Real Lavoie, son Harvey, and Real's mother. Taken 1957 getting ready to pick the crop.



Omer Lafrance's first combine in 1945.



THRESHING IN LAC
BELLEVUE 1913. Notice that the
machine was hand fed with one
man responsible for forking the
straw away from behind the
machine. THE HALINA
THRESHER?



Omer Lafrance's threshing outfit
and crew in 1944.



Maurice Jean and Hector Jean
threshing.



Threshing, before the coming of the combine, would require many man hours. Scenes, like above, were to be seen throughout the community. Those farmers that did not own a machine would follow the machine from farmer to farmer as crops became ready to be threshed. A small celebration would take place amongst the group after all threshing was completed. Gerald Thoben, Henry Willer, Metro Makowecki, George and Joe Hovelkamp, John Makowecki, Bernard Saeger.



A Home made 2 wheel cart which Alcide and Solange drove to Cartier School with pony Fly.



Standing on Flirt and May — Isidore Gregoraschuk, Joe Krochmal. Sitting: Roger Desaulniers, Gene Chester. Centre: Raymond Labrecque.



Clem Ashworth ready to leave for Manville for supplies before 1920. It would take six weeks to deliver 1000 bushels of grain from the Ashworth homestead to Manville, the nearest grain buying point, by using the above mode of transportation.



Nick Fakas Homestead 1936. L-R: Stanley Gadowski, Annie Zacharuk and child. Truck 1924 Model T Ford. Notice the Thatched Roofs of the Buildings.



1921 at Lac Bellevue, cattle came from the foothills. Steve Demchuk tended these cattle.



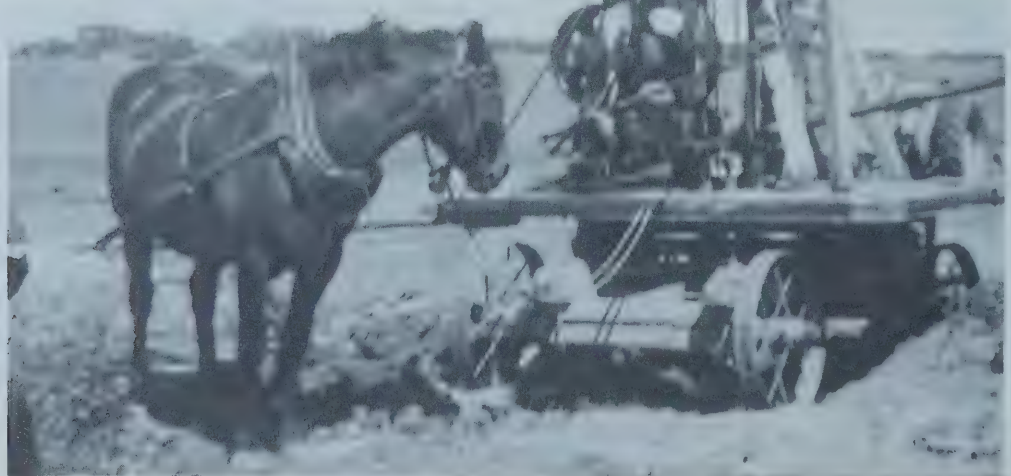
Elzear Foisy's caboose and team of light horses, the family's means of transportation in 1930.



Sawmill on Demchuk Farm at Lake Eliza. L-R: John Paly, Reece Demchuk, Nick Hollowaychuk.



Successful Hunt by Two Area Residents Nov. 10, 1912. L-R: Roy Sagert, from Elk Point and Henry Tatosky.



Jack Murray's drilling rig that supplied water for many farmers throughout the area.



Mike Zacharuk Breaking Land 1949.



A swim in Lake Bellevue Lake. Top row: Mrs. Clark, Nellie Tymko, Agnes Polowsky. Bottom row: Peter Yuschyshyn, Stefka Polowsky, Annie Tymko, Unidentified, Teacher Lake Bellevue school.



Courting in the early days required more than turning on a key and stepping on the gas. The above method, as used by Willie Paly, was commonly seen in the rural communities before the 1940's.



Trapping Days of Henry Tatosky. Henry seated left with his pelts and mounted owls. 1912.



Ferryman's Shack at Myrnam ferry 1960.



The Lafrance children leaving for school in the mid-thirties. Paul, Luc, and Robert are in the front seat while Annette, Thérèse and Ida are in the back.



Mike Petruk Plowing. Early 30's.



Lake Bellevue Field Day Late 30's?

Lac Bellevue Ukrainian Dancers
of the 1930's. L-R: Ann (Sharun)
Rault, Bill Fodchuk, Katherin
Tymofichuk, Steve Petruk, Mary
(Sharun) Sadlowski, Joe
Zacharuk, Ann Fodchuk, Steve
Berezanski, Rose Poloway,
Willie Proskiw.



Madeline and Walter Krochmal riding their horse, Shorty. The farm
home is in the background.



Harvest of 1937. Metro Hryhynchuk with his Horses "Slim" and
"George".



Threshing Crews at Metro Hryhurchuk's Year 1937.



Jaroslav Bayrak breaking land on his Lac Bellevue homestead about 1929.



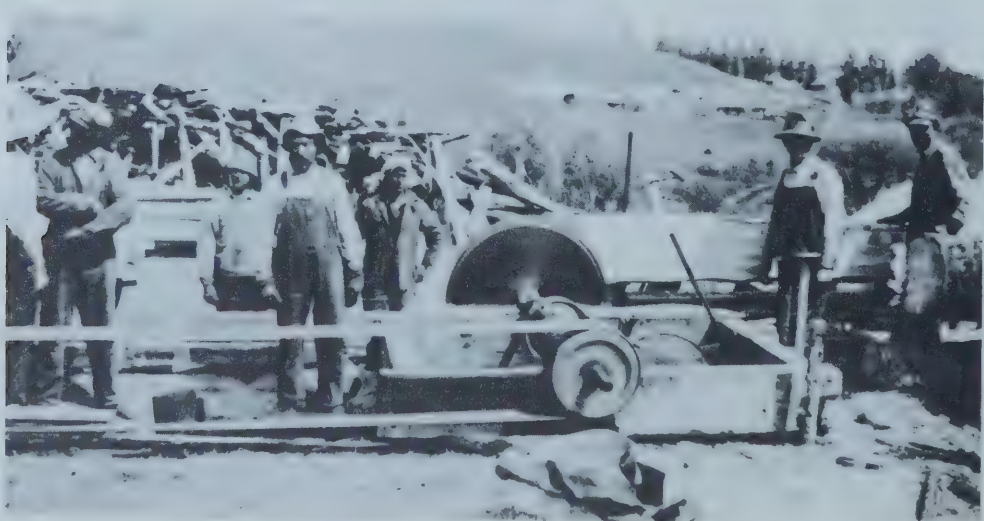
Tony Krankowsky's Threshing outfit 1944.



An afternoon at Hauzenberger Homestead with Adolph Postwieller with accordion and Mr. Ed Hauzenberger.



Real Lavoie with his team of horses taken in 1953.



Frank Linkewich sawing lumber at White Brothers approximately 1929. L-R: Bill White, Steve Yakimowich, Jelmar Johnson, Anton Krankowski, Alfred Denega, Frank Linkewich, Last Person Unknown.



First Class Of The Lake Eliza School 1921. Selma Johannson — Teacher. Back row: Mike Boratynec, Annie Piotrowsky, Selma Johannson, Teacher, Julia Denega, Katie Philipowich, William Sydorchuk. Second Row: John Markowsky, Joe Krankowski, Carrie Murray, George Solonink, Don Piotrowsky, John Prymak, Tony Krankowsky, Mike Demchuk, Alfred Denega, John Paly. Third row: Bill Ruryk, John Krankowsky, Charlie Krankowsky, Nancy Paly, Mary Pidlubney, Annie Krankowsky, Helen Piotrowsky, John Solonink, Morris Pidlubney. Fourth row: Joe Pidlubney, Bill Filipowich, Clara Murray, Joe Totosky, Paul Petrowsky, William Zalasky. Missing: Fred Sydorchuk, L. Ruryk-Girl, Jack Murray, Elmer Murray, Annie Krankowsky.



Aerial View of Crestview Development.

SAWMILLS

Sawing wood at Journault's: L-R: Maurice Robinson, Fernand Couillard, Jules Journault, Jean-Charles Journault, and Richard Malo.



Mike Boratynec with the Wirsta Boys preparing the fuel supply.



Logs that were to be cut into lumber, for the Federated Co-op in Smith, Alberta. Laurent Robinson was contractor.



Laurent Robinson's Sawmill. Taken in 1964 in Truman.



Laurent Robinson's sawmill at Truman, Alberta. L-R: Aime Malo, Laurent Robinson, Pierre Malo, and Maurice Desaulniers.



Marcoux's Steamer sawing at the Moose Hills — 30's.



The Napoleon Tremblay boys: Gerard, Antoine, Eugene and Hector sawing logs at Henri Robinson's farm, in the winter of 1964-65.



Firewood sawing crew: L-R: Jean-Charles Journault, Laurent Robinson, Pierre Robinson, Wilfrid Desaulniers, Joseph Journault and Jules Journault.



Rodolphe Cote Sawing lumber at Willow River, B.C. P. Church Sawmills, 1955.



JOHN and PETER KOSSEY Sawmill.

PIONEERS



Alexi and Amede Belouin who both took homesteads in the Lac Canard area about in 1916 or even before.

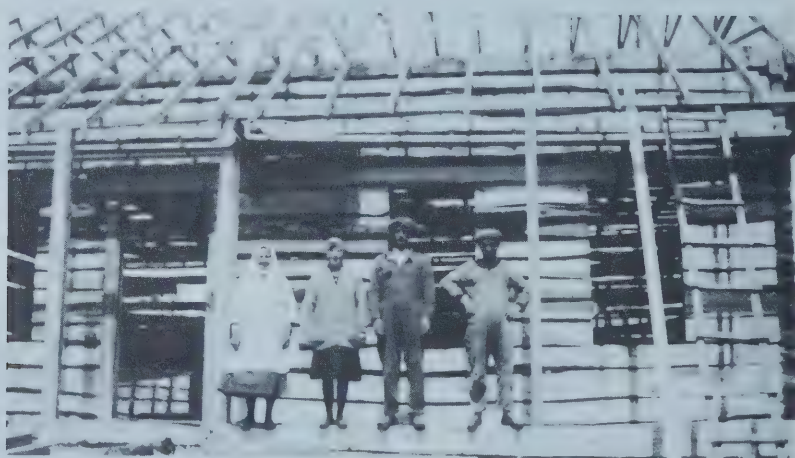


Other Lafond Pioneers: Leopoldine and David Charron.

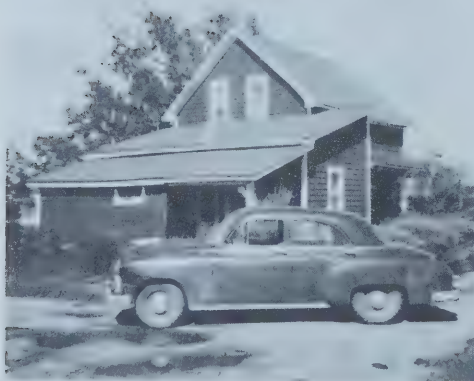


Pioneers All: Philippe Couillard, Marie Louise Couillard, Ernest Leboeuf, Mrs. Leboeuf, Mrs. Lapointe and Joseph Lapointe.

OLD HOMES



Building the Boratynec First Home 1929.



Built in 1912 by Basil Jean. Mr. and Mrs. Andre Malo (1962-1977) Home. Demolished after 65 years.



Hrushka Home 1958.



Built in the early years of 1900. Mr. and Mrs. Armand Lapointe Home. Demolished after 70 years.

RODEO QUEENS



Darlene's main ticket selling helpers. Line Robinson, Lynett Norby, Lucie and Lise Robinson with Darlene Couillard holding her horse Lady, just before the parade. Sue Theroux, another helper, was missing.



Darlene Couillard as 1979 Rodeo Queen and Debbie Bodnar, retiring 1978 Queen.



Rodeo Queen Contestant (1977) St. Paul. Lorraine Robinson, Lafond, Alta. Lorraine came second runner up. She was in 4-H at the time.



Three Lafond girls running for Rodeo Queen in 1979. Aline Lafrance, Tammy Schwengler, Darlene Couillard and 1978 Rodeo Queen Debbie Bodnar from Foisy district.



Taken in the 1920's. Mrs. Florence Audette (nee Paradis) and niece Rose Anna Paradis. Mrs. Audette sister of Ulderic Paradis was a mid-wife in the Lafond and Foisy districts.



A longtime resident of the Lac Bellevue Community was Sam Bidalack. A well educated man, educated in his country of birth. His moving ways will be remembered by all residents who knew him. L-R: Ron Krissa, Annie Krissa, Thomas Krissa, Ludwig Krissa and on the right Sam Bidalack.

JACOB BESNYCHUK

by Ed Krochmal

Jacob Besnychuk was well known as a well digger who used a horse-operated drill. He farmed down near the north Saskatchewan River about 5 miles south of Lafond, until he sold to Ed Krochmal. He had moved here from Musidora in the late 30's, then bought some land in the southern part of Lac Bellevue area, close to the river. He passed away on August 24, 1972.

He was born on May 2, 1886 and had been in Canada for 60 years. He lived in the St. Paul area for 39 years.

John and Anna Besnychuk, Jacob's parents, were in Austria.



Hector Duhamel 2nd husband, of Celia, Duff LaBreque's sister.



John Haggerty's family picture, taken in the early 40's. Back row: James, John, and Cathleen. Front row: Helen, Richard and Mrs. Haggerty. Andy hiding in the back.

PETER KOZAK

by Ed Krochmal

Peter Kozak was born in 1885 in Buckovina, Austria. He came to Canada in the 1920's. He was a farm laborer for many years and finally was able to buy his own farm, five miles south and half a mile west of Lafond, where George Bodnar farmed for a while. Mr. Kozak used to speak to his horses and say "awright" to them when he'd want them to start.

Later, he moved a little house to John Chudyk's farm, one mile west of Lafond, and lived in it.

He was very helpful and willing to try anything, which made him well-liked by his neighbors. He enjoyed old-time music and good food. His favorite band was: "Easy Aces".



Taken in the 1920's. Mr. and Mrs. Fortunat Moisan. Lived on the S.W. 27-56-11-4 in The Foisy district.

CARL SALLEY

Worked at Joe Desaulniers in 1936-37, and later for other farmers.



Rodrick and Monica MacIntyre, emigrated to Canada in 1927, settled in St. Brides. Picture was taken in early 40's Rodrick was the brother of St. Brides first priest.



Taken in the 1930's. Mr. Florian Paradis son of Ulderic Paradis. Florian was known for his carpentry work in the Lafond and Foisy districts.

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